

in B w b r z
S P S p i 3
I n c o r p o r a t e d
t e q u i r e
a v p t i f i c a t i o n
Z P d U p e



Fire is the weapon of South Africa's rebellious school-children. (Photo by Walter Dhaladhla)

By Bob Hitchcock

South African coloureds turning against whites

LONDON — While the protests and killings go on, South Africa's 2.9 million Coloureds — people of mixed race — continue to suffer the lunacies and iniquities of apartheid.

A young Coloured office worker is fired by a Cape Town firm because she used the whites-only toilet.

A newly-wed Coloured woman and her white husband are forced to quit the man's home in a whites-only residential area in Villiersdorp, east of Cape Town, after threats from neighbours. The government orders the man to relinquish white status and be reclassified as a Coloured.

This despite President P.W. Botha's promise that the Mixed Marriages Act and the Immorality Act (which bars inter-racial sex) would be repealed.

In Johannesburg, thousands of Coloured families face prosecution because they have moved into an area designated "white" under the Group Areas Act.

Now, however, there are signs of a deep change in Coloured thinking, one which will pit them against the white society they have traditionally supported and align them solidly with the black majority in any future showdown.

The origin of South Africa's Coloureds can be traced to the arrival of the first Dutch settlers in 1658. For many years, sexual relationships were unrestrained between the white masters and the Bantu women, and women slaves from Asia and the east and west coasts of Africa.

The Dutch were followed in 1688 by a small group of French Huguenot refugees. They also practised miscegenation, as did British settlers who began to arrive in the early 1800s.

A perceptive South African novelist, Sarah Gertrude Millin, once described the Coloureds as

A mixture of emotional hurt and political pragmatism seems to be turning the crucial 3 million Coloureds of South Africa against the white rulers they traditionally supported.

"God's stepchildren," a description that remains apt to this day.

For now they are trapped between the two political extremes — the white nationalism that rules today and the black nationalism that will rule tomorrow.

A Cape Coloured lecturer, a squatter, once said to me as we sat in his Cape Town "pondok" made from supermarket cartons, sheets of plastic and corrugated iron, "We Coloureds are destined to live our lives in a no-win situation."

It is also true that the Coloureds are marginally better off under the apartheid laws than the blacks, who bear the full brunt of racial discrimination by law and by convention.

The dilemma and tragedy of the Coloureds lies in their hereditary closeness to the whites, who despise them and over the years have rejected them.

Coloureds, some of whom in appearance are indistinguishable from certain types of white South Africans, are by law forbidden to enter most white hotels, cafés, restaurants and cinemas. Except for the handful who can afford private school fees, Coloured children are forced to accept second-rate education in "coloured" state schools.

Even loyalties within the Coloured communities are fractured. The government has officially created seven categories of Coloured people.

They are: Cape Coloureds; Malays; Girques (descendants of early relationships between white traders and African women); Chinese (recently given to understand that they have full white status); Indians; Other Asiatics (Zanzibari Arabs and Asians originating from anywhere other than China, India or Pakistan); and other Coloureds (anyone not in any of those groups and neither white nor African).

Indicative of the madness of apartheid and the psychological damage it causes its victims, the Coloureds themselves have for years applied their own form of racial discrimination at a social level, depending on the darkness and lightness of skin.

Many parents told their children, dark-complexioned Coloureds were not welcome in their homes.

This, of course, was an indication of the affinity large numbers of Coloureds have felt over the years with white South Africa, though the feelings have never been reciprocated to any meaningful extent.

The Coloureds had a better deal in the 1980s than they get today. And this despite enactment of a new constitution that gives Coloureds a limited say in the governing of the country.

Ironically, it was this development that for the first time united Coloureds in outbursts of pent-up

rage and bitterness in the streets of Cape Town.

The Coloured consensus today is that supporters of the 85-member Coloured House of Representatives within the whites' Parliament are traitors to the anti-apartheid cause.

Through their more militant spokesmen — such as Dr Allan Boesak, a Dutch Reformed Church theologian with a talent for oratory — the Coloureds are making it plain they want no part in Botha's compromise "reforms" and that any constitutional plans that bar the participation of the country's 18 million Africans are beneath contempt.

In part, this change of mood to blatant belligerence among Coloureds of all classes could be a belated emotional response to 300 years of rejection by the whites whose ancestors were partly responsible for their existence today.

But there is more to it than that. The Coloureds have realised that it is time to forget their dreams of becoming a part of the white laager.

Brown Afrikaners most of them may be, but who wants to join a sinking ship? The rulers of tomorrow will have black skins.

Coloureds are turning away from Afrikaans, their traditional language created as a means of communication between early white settlers and their slaves.

Many are learning Xhosa and other African tribal languages and polishing up their English, which they regard as an international language. Couples are avoiding Afrikaans names for their babies.

Coloured poets and novelists are writing less in Afrikaans, more in English.

Through their protests in the streets of Cape Town and the exclusive tone of speeches by their leaders, the Coloureds in 1985 vehemently rejected the white community and forged strong links with African activities.

The fact is that the Coloureds have thrown off the shame once felt for the dark side of their parentage.

One day soon the whites are likely to regret their rejection of "God's stepchildren." For they have lost nearly 3 million potential allies.

Bob Hitchcock spent many years in South Africa as a writer and journalist.

The Jerusalem Star

Jordan's Only English Weekly Newspaper
For in depth reports

Call tel.: 664153/4, 664131/2

The Jerusalem Star

Political, Economic & Social Review

Volume 4, Number 26 Autumn, 30 Jan - 5 February, 1986

The search for the right price

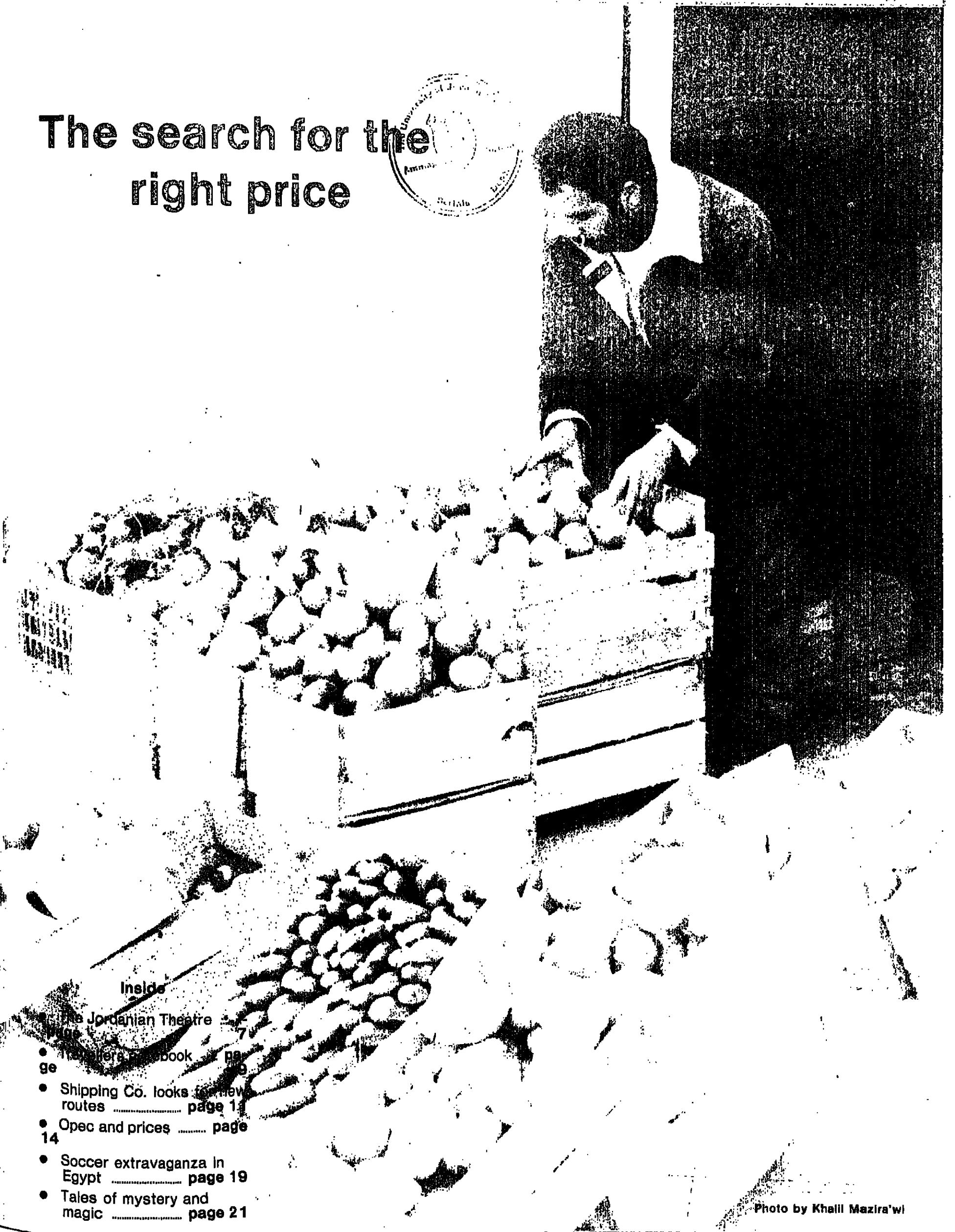


Photo by Khalil Mazra'wi

- Inside
- The Jordanian Theatre
 - Shipping Co. looks for new routes page 1
 - Opec and prices page 14
 - Soccer extravaganza in Egypt page 19
 - Tales of mystery and magic page 21

Price: Jordan 150 fils Saudi Arabia & Qatar 3 riyals UAE 3 dirhams Kuwait & Bahrain 250 fils Syria & Lebanon 3 pounds

الجزيرة

ON 5 December, 1985 Prime Minister Zaid Al-Rifai chaired a meeting at which several issues dealing with the marketing of agricultural products were discussed. Among the urgent steps taken was the abolition of the control prices for locally produced vegetables and fruits. The following articles discuss the effects on the decision, and some comments by representatives and heads of some farmers organization.

Farmers urged to produce more

By Hamdan Al-Hajj
Star Staff Writer

MR. MARWAN DOUDEEN, the Director General of the Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company of Jordan has urged farmers to have confidence in themselves and in their work and care for their products.

They should classify the vegetables as to facilitate offer and thus make it easier for the company to buy their products and export them. This will also give a good reputation for the Jordanian products and consequently increase their demand.

Speaking in an interview with The Star, Mr. Doudeen said that the Jordanian farmer is no longer a novice; he has increased his knowledge in his work. Not only is it required to increase production and packaging of the products, but it is also necessary to choose the best, use suitable symmetrical containers, and control very carefully the products intended for export.

With regard to the quantities exported to the Arab countries, Mr. Doudeen said that fifty refrigerated trucks were exported to Lebanon while, four refrigerator trucks are sent daily to Damascus since 16 January. Two other refrigerated trucks go to Saudi Arabia and two others to Kuwait.

Concerning the quantities already purchased, Mr. Doudeen said that the company bought from the central market within the second week of December 796 tons of aubergine, 360 tons of courgettes, 23 tons of beans, 15 tons of green hot pepper, and 15 tons of sweet green pepper. The quantity bought directly from farmers within the last week of December 718 tons of aubergine, 185 tons of courgettes, 13 tons of sweet green pepper, 10 tons of hot green pepper, 26 tons of beans and 4 tons of cucumber.

The quantity exported within the period to Iraq, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and Syria was 88 tons of aubergine, 461 tons of courgettes, 37 tons of beans, 13 tons of green sweet pepper, 10 tons of hot green pepper, and 175 tons of lemons.

With regard to the West Bank agricultural products Mr. Doudeen said that there is an agreed programme supervised by the Ministry of Agriculture whereby agricultural products may be brought from the West Bank to the East Bank amounting to 50 per cent of the estimated West Bank products. The company was asked to buy a portion of the West Bank products if they do not affect similar products in the East Bank and compete with the latter.

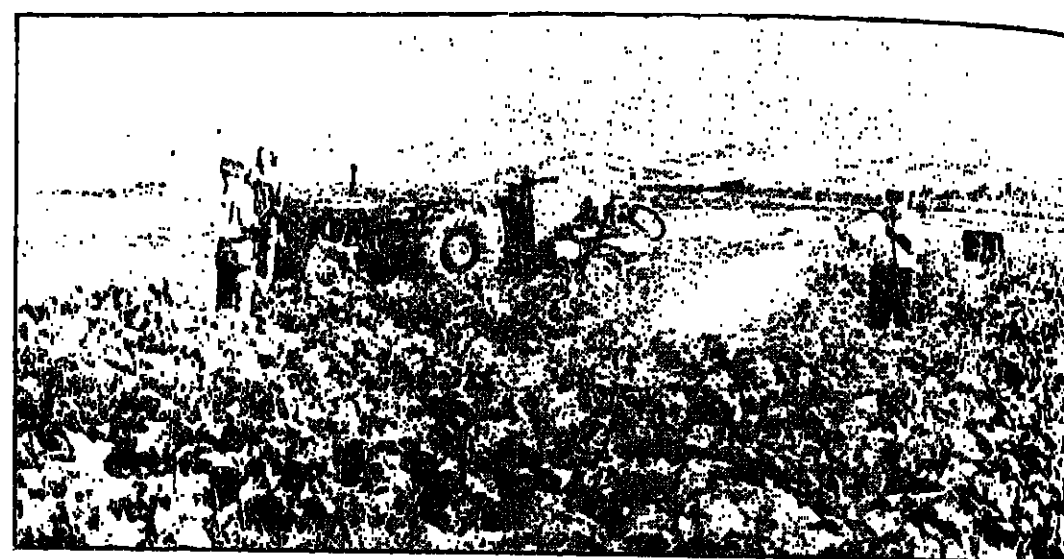
"We have succeeded to market more than two-thirds of the products which we have received to the Arab markets mainly Lebanon, Syria, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait," Mr. Doudeen said.

With regard to tomato juice, Mr. Doudeen stated that the farmers have agreed with the factory owners on the kind of tomatoes which the factory needs. Thus the factory can produce good tomato juice which would widen the market.

"Lifting of fixed prices has not affected the factory but as regards the farmer he has increased the wholesale prices of most of the products, but I hope this will not reflect on the retail prices because the consumer can buy good products for suitable prices depending on his social status," said Mr. Doudeen.

This is the first time that the consumer has the choice to buy what he wants.

He added, that although the government has cancelled the control prices nevertheless, if it



Spraying crops to ensure a good harvest

sees that the freezing of prices will harm the farmer and the consumer it would not hesitate to re-establish the fixed prices.

Commenting on the Company's buying the agricultural products Mr. Doudeen said it was a good thing and the government must be congratulated on taking this decision as it has increased the confidence of the farmer. Reactions in general were positive and if negative results ensue also, that shows that it was a healthy step because perfection cannot be attained and we endeavour to attain the aim or objective for which the Company was founded.



Prices of fruit /vegetables on the rise

THE HEAD of the Department of Agriculture at the University of Jordan, Dr. Suleiman Arabiyat in a comment on the new price regulations on fruits and vegetables said he was not very optimistic about the floating of the prices of locally produced fruit and vegetables which as he put it is aimed at getting better prices for the farmers.

He said the removal of the control prices will lead to a rise in prices especially on the retail market and this will mainly affect the consumers. The absence of a marketing system makes the process even worse. The slight positive results which have been achieved, are related to the worries of middlemen and agents that the government will pass a law cutting their profits to 2 per cent.

Dr. Arabiyat said two reports were issued by the Ministry of

Agriculture regarding the pricing regulations. The reports did not actually reflect the real situation of the market. They only pointed out that there was a rise in retail and wholesale prices and also there was a decline. The reports didn't project the real situation because it didn't have figures of what farmers were really getting.

He added that the change in prices didn't originally affect the farmers or the farm product and that the effect of the price change can't be compared with last month's prices. The Ministry of Agriculture was supposed to have done a comprehensive study of the effect of the control prices. Agricultural products didn't increase while the retail prices have noticeably increased. Dr. Arabiyat said the effects of the price regulations cannot be evaluated in the absence of other factors. He therefore suggested the following:

1. To attempt to check the activities of agents and exploiters on the market.
2. If the government insists on removing the control prices of products, then it should issue price lists which will not be imposed on

traders but at least will give guidance to the consumers.

3. The price lists should be based on accurate and precise information.

4. Development of classification processes for products at prices. The above mentioned points are temporary solutions.

But regarding the permanent long term plans, Dr. Arabiyat suggested the following:

1. Planning should be carried out by specialists.
2. Classification processes should be based on fixed and clear data.
3. Re-establishing the central wholesale markets and observing the agents more strictly, near the exporters.
4. Reviewing the structure of the Marketing Company, either change it to a general company or take it to the private sector to improve its performance.
5. Providing the farmers and consumers with more guidance.

But Dr. Arabiyat ended by saying that he is for the re-introduction of price controls on condition that they are based on real cost and reasonable profits for all parties involved.



Packing vegetables for the local market and export

Prices up

WHEN THE government removed the control prices on fruits and vegetables last December, it simply aimed at helping farmers to get prices which will be compatible with the actual cost of their products. It also aimed at protecting the prices of local farm produce from deteriorating, and helping consumers against exploitation.

Few weeks after the decision was taken, wholesale and retail prices went higher than before. Weekly official reports from the Ministry of Agriculture regarding the decision indicates that prices have been continually going up, and that several parties concerned with the whole issue have taken advantage of the decision to exploit others.

The final report issued by the Ministry of Agriculture stresses the fact that wholesale and retail prices for all kinds of fruits and vegetables are getting higher, and that in one single week, prices have increased from 2 per cent to 49 per cent.

The report adds that the wholesale prices for all fruits and vegetables are profitable and reasonable, but there is a great gap between wholesale and retail prices which favour the retail traders who now obtain double the price for many products.

Therefore the government's objective to help the farmers appears to be completely nullified because the only winners are the wholesale and retail traders, while the farmers and consumers are the losers.

Few people are dominating the local wholesale market. There isn't a free and competitive market

which can co-operate with a large number of producers and traders so that agents' profits can be brought to a limit and farmers can then enjoy reasonable prices.

The Agricultural Products Marketing Company entering the market as a purchaser didn't actually improve the farmers situation because its total purchasing and marketing power was very limited in comparison with the wholesale products.

This initiative has brought forth several negative indications. The outcome of the price rise of fruits and vegetables locally produced, has actually gone to middle men, wholesale and retail traders, not to the farmers as the government has planned.

The absence of pricing has led the retail traders to raise prices excessively. Thus there is the need for reviewing the whole price issue and of making attempts to impose the price control once again. The previous low prices were not the contributory factor for the low prices the farmers receive, because the cost of stable elements still exists.

These elements are: Transportation costs, empty boxes, and central markets commission. Although the idea of abolishing the price controls appear quite laudable, it is hoped that people will benefit from the free prices experience and that the Ministry of Agriculture and the respective parties will re-study the subject. Also, the consumer who is the ultimate sufferer, will be the target of this new study which it is hoped the private and common sectors will deal with.

The problem of marketing

By Imad Mikhail Al-Qasou
Special to The Star

MARKETING IS the most serious problem facing the farmers of the Jordan Valley. The main task of the government is to support agricultural production and find a proper process for marketing. Without this, farmers will leave the field of agriculture which should be one of the main sectors of development in the country.

In an interview with The Star, the Chairman of the Union of Farmers of Jordan Valley, Mr. Adel Shamayleh, exposed a lot of problems which the union is struggling to deal with. The local market is rather small for the competition between our farmers who do not restrict themselves to the cropping patterns developed by the government.

This makes the supply bigger than the demand. Meanwhile, the foreign market presents a number of problems. Jordanian production is more expensive, due to the high cost of fertilizers, insecticides and seed. On the other hand, Jordan's products are diversified.

Union of Farmers, Mr. Shamayleh said, cannot help to solve the problem of marketing, because of limited financial resources which prevent it from marketing the production of the whole valley from Aladasia in the north to the Dead Sea south. In the south a production of about 70 per cent of the total national production of vegetables and fruits.

"Financially we can do nothing. Our income depends on the annual dues of the members, amounting to JD 18,000. On the other hand, we have the two per cent interest from the loans given to our members from the Agriculture Credit Corporation (ACC) through us." The Union of Farmers takes the loan from the ACC with



an interest of 6 per cent and gives its members a loan with seven per cent interest.

The debts the farmers owe to the union amount to JD 1,300,000. But many farmers are incapable of paying back since they are facing a decline in production.

Mr. Shamayleh said it is regrettable that the previous cabinet did not give the refrigerating projects and the tomato paste factory and other similar projects to the union of farmers. Instead of to the Agricultural Production and Marketing Company (AMPACO), which has become responsible for marketing. Mr. Shamayleh added that the ca-

binet had broken the law which it had passed itself.

He continued that it is the cabinet's duty to support the Union both financially and morally. The Union pays some JD 18,000 as salaries every month to its engineers, specialists and for activities. The future plans of the Union include the establishment of an organic fertilizer factory. It is also planning to import the fertilizer directly without the use of agents in order to reduce costs.

Mr. Shamayleh concluded that since the farmer is the producer, the Union to which he belongs should market his produce.

Highland project boosts production

THE HIGHLAND Development Programme which recently entered its \$52 million fourth phase, is one of Jordan's oldest tree planting projects, dating back over twenty years.

Under phase four of the project, which is being supported by the World Food Programme with 17.5 million worth of food commodities, 100,000 dunums each of private

and government land will be planted with trees over the coming four years.

The private land falls within the 250-350 mm per annum rainfall range and will be planted mainly with olives, figs, almonds and grapes. Stone fruits are not suitable as they need a higher rainfall.

The project is limited to farmers with holdings of less than fifty dunums and Project Director Ahmad Rimawi of the Ministry of Agriculture, says it is really only suited to the small farmer as it requires a high standard of work which is only economic if the farmer does some of the work himself and supervises the rest personally.

The project has achieved a high

participation rate by farmers. In phase three 2,700 projects were completed, representing ninety per cent of those originally undertaken, and 75,000 dunums were planted with fruit trees.

The potential benefits to the farmer are considerable. In the short term he and his family receive food aid from the WFP in return for the improvement work while in the long term they should receive higher income and an improved diet. The community also benefits from the dietary improvement due to the greater availability of fruit.

As with all farming projects, the HDP includes the introduction of improved farming techniques designed to protect the soil, improved yields and increase profitability.

British Embassy Annual notice to all British nationals living in Jordan

HAVE YOU registered with the British Embassy??? If you are a British citizen and live in Jordan please contact the British Embassy, Consular Section, in order to obtain a registration form.

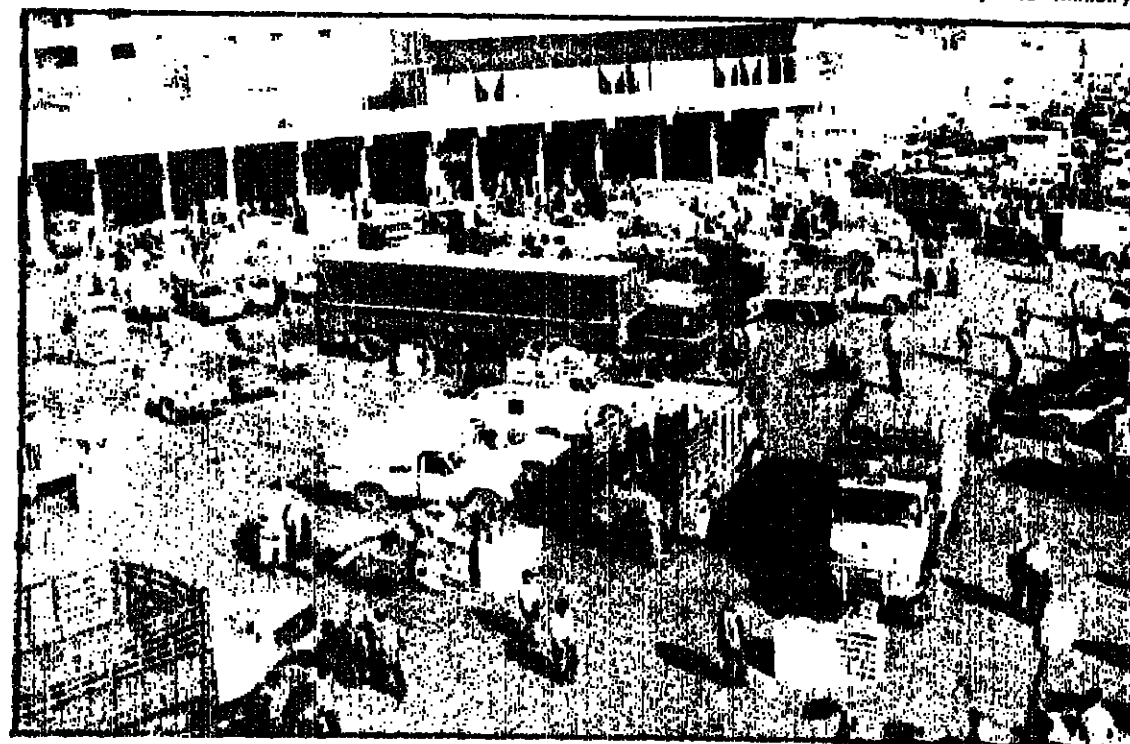
If you have been registered for a year or more and have not confirmed your continuing presence in Jordan, please do so by contacting the Consular Section as soon as possible. Please also notify the Consular Section about any changes of address and/or telephone number. Such confirmation is in the interests of all British nationals in Jordan.

If names are not re-registered within three months the Embassy will be obliged to consider that those concerned have left the country. The names will accordingly be deleted from the register.

If you are a citizen of a Commonwealth country which does not have an Embassy or Consulate in Jordan please ask the British Embassy, Consular Section, about registration formalities.

The British Embassy is located on Third Circle in Jabal Amman. The telephone number is 641261-8 and the Post Office Box number is 87.

The Consular Section is open from Sunday until Thursday 0830-1330 hours.



Trucks arrive with fruit and vegetables

Project provides the seeds of expansion

Seed multiplication work brings results

By Pam Dougherty

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS being equal, farmers in Jordan's rain-fed areas using a 'package' of modern techniques can get double the yield achieved by those using traditional methods. This is the message coming from the Seed Multiplication in Jordan Project which is just finishing its first three-year phase.

The message is one that Jordan cannot afford to ignore while it is faced with the need to import an average of 350,000 tonnes of wheat per year and its own production ranges from a high of 30.5 per cent of needs in 1980 to a low of 5.2 per cent in 1979.

When rainfall is generally low and varies widely from year to year, it is vital to maximize the impact of other inputs into the agricultural process and the Seed Multiplication project is one approach.

The project, which has been organized jointly by the Ministry of Agriculture and the Jordan Co-operative Organisation (JCO) with support from the West German government, began with the broad aim of helping to upgrade seed quality and improve grain yields in order to help small farmers achieve better incomes and to contribute to a reduction in costly grain imports.

Project team leader Dr H. Notzel says it has three components: breeding, maintenance breeding and seed control. For breeding, which is essentially the development of new varieties adapted to Jordanian growing conditions, the German specialists offer technical advice and aid the implementation of developmental work which is carried out mainly by Ministry of Agriculture staff.

Dr Notzel points out that this is essentially a long term work as it takes from ten to fifteen years to

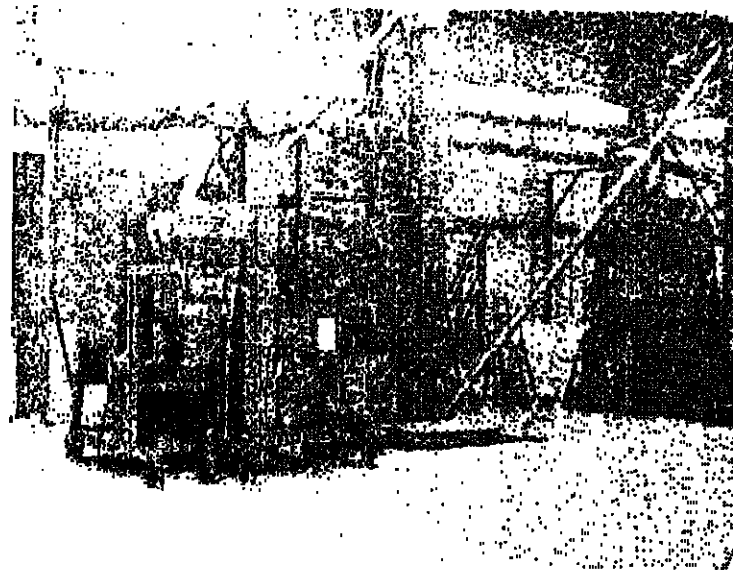
develop a new species to the stage that it can be sold to farmers. Jordan does take some new varieties from outside agencies such as ICARDA in Syria, but even these require further adaptation to local conditions.

As an interim measure, the project has been working with existing grains on a maintenance breeding programme. This is an annual programme to 'clean' the seed stock which will be planted in the coming year. It is done at two cleaning plants, one at Irbid and the other at Madaba. Each plant has the capacity to handle 2,500 tonnes of seed and has a pre-cleaning which removes straw and stones from the seeds and a main cleaning machine which, by using various sieves, weighing and wind, can separate out small and broken kernels, barley from wheat, and different shaped seeds in order to ensure a pure, clean stock seed is also treated to prevent seed and soil fungi.

Once the cleaning and treating is complete a basic seed stock of each variety, around 50 to 100 tonnes of each, is handed over to the JCO seed multiplication division. The JCO then contracts with farmers, mainly in the Irbid and Madaba districts where the best yields can be expected, but also on a more limited scale in Karak, who plant crops specifically to produce good seed for the next growing season.

It is at this point that the quality seed comes together with the package of improved techniques to produce vastly improved yields and Dr Notzel emphasises that the two elements must go together. With this in mind, the JCO insists that any farmer wishing to take part in the contract growing must do so under certain agro-technical conditions which have been found best suited to this region. They are:

a) Relatively deep ploughing with a chisel plough.



Machinery for seed cleaning makes an important contribution

b) Early sowing — this means before the first winter rains and early to mid-November is considered the optimum time. For the 1985-86 season the Ministry of Agriculture planted in early November on its demonstration areas and following the 18 December rains, already has healthy crops underway. Dr Notzel says farmers who wait for the rains before planting are left with a short growing season and consequently lower yields.

c) Use of fertiliser — this should be applied as seed is being planted. Most traditional farmers rely on fallow system to replenish the soil.

d) Spraying against weeds. This is essential as early sowing is done, as weeds will also germinate when the rains come. Farmers who follow traditional methods cite this as one of the advantages as they plough up weeds which have germinated following the rain before they plant their grain.

If farmers are to be convinced to buy the JCO's contract grown seed, they must be sure that they will receive quality seed for their money and it is for that a number of 'seed control' measures are necessary.

The first, and most important, is the control of the growing population in the field. Fields must be inspected to ensure that they are clean i.e. that the level of 'foreign' grains that have found their way in amongst the desired grains is acceptable.

After the harvest the grains must then be cleaned and a sample drawn according to each field for laboratory checks on their germination percentage and the purity of the seed.

If the grain is found to be acceptable certification is given and farmers are guaranteed a good seed with sound yield possibilities.

The three project activities of breeding, maintenance breeding and seed control have now been underway for only three years but Dr Notzel feels that good results have already been achieved.

At this stage Jordan now has two plants capable of preparing sufficient wheat and barley seeds for all Jordan's needs on the condition that each farmer who buys self-multiples three times i.e. buys new seed every four years. Some European and British farmers buy

new seed every year but this is considered beyond the financial capacity of most Jordanian farmers and Dr Notzel believes that decrease in yields over the years is acceptable so long as farmers buy new seed for the next year.

He says it is hard to measure exactly how much higher yields are achieved under the maintenance breeding programme but says the yields obtained by the contract farmers are double those of traditional farmers over a 10 year average.

This is not specifically a result of the seed multiplication but of the complete approach of techniques and inputs and a farmer can apply it.

In the areas where the contract work has been done, the JCO is finding that all farmers want to be contract farmers now that they have seen the results. A further incentive is that the government guarantees a price of JD 144 per tonne for the certified seed on delivery to the JCO whereas the regular farmer gets JD 120 at delivery to the Ministry of Supply.

The Ministry of Agriculture encourages farmers to adopt the new techniques by running demonstration trials at nine locations throughout Jordan where the show new varieties, fertiliser applications, new ploughing techniques etc and Dr Notzel says farmers showing a greater interest.

The Seed Multiplication Project is now entering its second three-phase and for a project of such potentially value results to Jordan's economy, it is remarkably inexpensive to run. In 1982-85 the West German government provided approximately JD 488,000 (DM 330,000) for the Ministry of Agriculture and JD 1,776,000 (DM 1.2 million) for the JCO. For the second phase of the project, which is due to run from 1985-88, Germany will provide JD 51,000 (DM 360,000) for each organization.

In addition to some very powerful pieces they have composed other numbers which are simple expressions of their feelings, of course, there are love songs and personal reflections on the state of their lives, themes not uncommon to any group, but they claim that their purpose is different.

I asked them about this, what is their purpose, do they aspire to become a world famous pop band, or is there something else there. "Of course we have aspirations to reach beyond Jordan, and even the Arab world, but first we must establish a local base. We don't want to become one of the One-Hit Wonders so common on today's music scene. First we'll try to establish a local group of fans, then if that works we'll make a few releases available outside of Jordan, in the Middle East. If they are received favourably the maybe we will plan a concert tour to promote the group. Each phase will be taken step by step, that way if we do produce a hit, and subsequent releases fail to match it we won't lose all support, we will already have an audience which appreciates us for what we did before any hit. "This is a new area, the combination of traditional local music with a progressive rock style and they want to find out if it will work. "Right now, it is art for art's sake. "They have no desire also to be classified as a Pop Band, Pop music is strictly for entertainment, they like to con-

Among the directors of the 'youth cinema' we meet names as Ali Tayeb, Issa Abdelhadi, Sameer Seli, Ali Abdelhadi, Mohamed Khan, Khalil Elshar, Said Marzouk, Ahmed Badier, and few others who believe in something more worthwhile than the 'opium cinema' which has been offered for most of the country's cinema history.

We also cannot forget the important role that Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco play in the African cinema with such distinguished directors as Lakhdar Hasselina, Rida Bahl, Ibrahim Tsaki, Abdelatif Bin Ammar, Hamid Benani, Suhail Bin Barakat and Ahmed Mainouni.

The Egyptian cinema is now undergoing a crisis. Even since Saudi Arabia stopped advertising through television, hundreds of low-standard films have been produced in Egypt every year just to provide the means for advertising through video.

On the other hand, the Egyptian film goes tend to favour genres below standard comedies. But though the situation seems to be discouraging, the 'youth cinema' which emerged in 1985, still struggles to establish itself.

Let the light up your life!

Mirage

An Oasis in the Desert

By Douglas J. Hood
Special to The Star

AT THE present but undefined beauty foretelling of things to come. That is what the Jordanian rock group MIRAGE is all about. Rising from a desert landscape, Mirage is a promise, a promise of the fulfillment of a dream that will combine the Arab roots, and culture with the influence of Western rock culture.

MIRAGE, comprised of Najla Madant, vocals, Wael Abu-Nuwar, keyboards and guitar, Khalid Bnyat, drums and percussion, and Jamal Taher, bass, have been playing together as a group for only one and a half years, yet they are rapidly rising in the ranks of local talent. They are Jordan's premier local band, writing, composing and playing all of their own music.

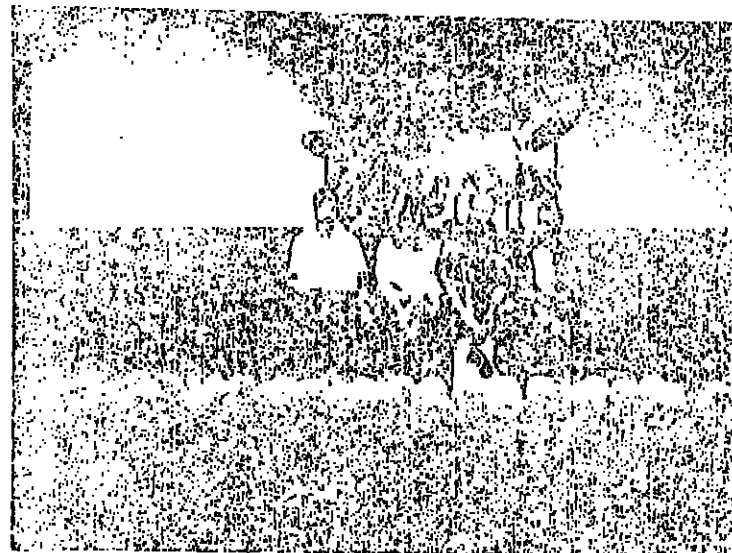
Their music is unique, even in an age where it appears that all possible forms and styles have been employed in the compositions, and presentation MIRAGE has succeeded in developing something which is theirs alone.

They feel that the bands which have most influenced their style are Pink Floyd and early Genesis releases, but far from copying these two renowned groups, they have incorporated the feel and style of their progressive rock style with the melodies and overtones of traditional Arab folk music.

A very good example of this combination is found in their moving and inspirational piece, "A Cry for Justice" (Palestine). They employ the stirring rock beat accentuated by the use of the bass drum and the vocal technique popularized by Pink Floyd, while at the same time using an almost haunting flute melody typical of Arab music. As a result, they have come up with an extremely powerful song which will move people regardless of whether or not they agree with the political tone of the song.

In addition to some very powerful pieces they have composed other numbers which are simple expressions of their feelings, of course, there are love songs and personal reflections on the state of their lives, themes not uncommon to any group, but they claim that their purpose is different.

I asked them about this, what is their purpose, do they aspire to become a world famous pop band, or is there something else there. "Of course we have aspirations to reach beyond Jordan, and even the Arab world, but first we must establish a local base. We don't want to become one of the One-Hit Wonders so common on today's music scene. First we'll try to establish a local group of fans, then if that works we'll make a few releases available outside of Jordan, in the Middle East. If they are received favourably the maybe we will plan a concert tour to promote the group. Each phase will be taken step by step, that way if we do produce a hit, and subsequent releases fail to match it we won't lose all support, we will already have an audience which appreciates us for what we did before any hit. "This is a new area, the combination of traditional local music with a progressive rock style and they want to find out if it will work. "Right now, it is art for art's sake. "They have no desire also to be classified as a Pop Band, Pop music is strictly for entertainment, they like to con-



MIRAGE: (Left to right: Wael, Najla, Jamal and Khalid)

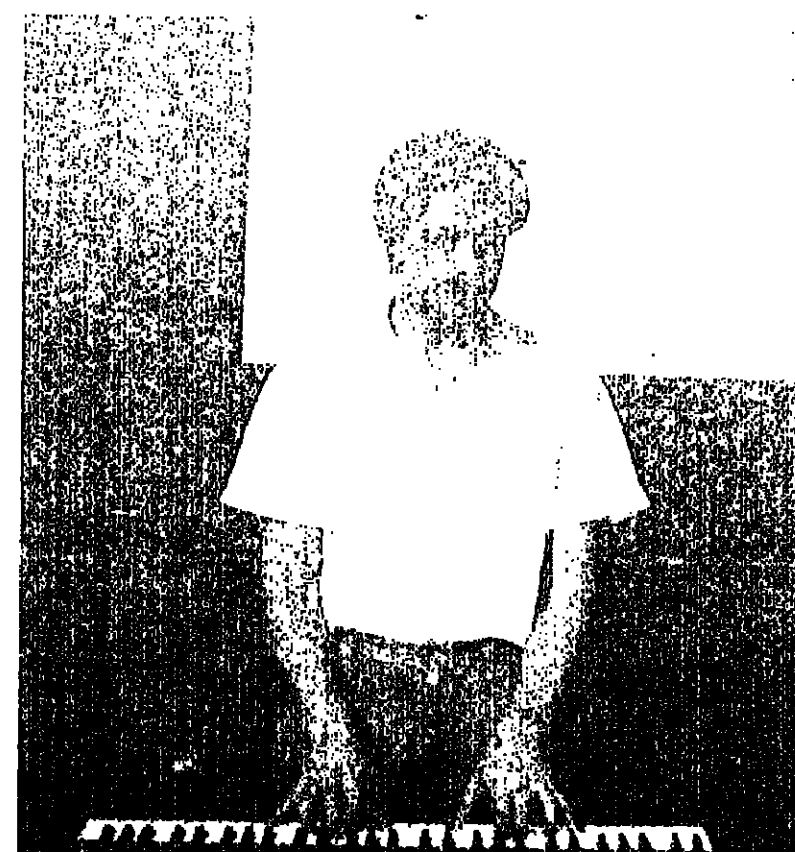
elder themselves a Progressive Rock group. Progressive rock conveys a message, the lyrics generally convey a story or a meaning, they are not just words, with a danceable beat.

So what do you expect at your concert? In the western world a concert is usually viewed as a giant dance, the ideal concert hall won't even have seats so that the fans can dance at will. "We want people to come to our concert and be so overpowered by our music that they won't be able to dance. We want them to just want to sit there and listen, if they are dancing they really aren't paying attention to what we're saying, we hope that they'll just listen."

About the concert, what are you planning? "Well, we have just received a complete new sound system from England, the people here in general, have not had the opportunity to experience a real concert, one with a really good sound system, in fact the kind of



Drummer Khalid Ghyyat



Wael Abu-Nuwar on the keyboard

MIRAGE plays all the parts, but a live concert necessitates supporting musicians. The concert begins on Thursday 30 January and it will last for four days.

Egyptian cinema — fifty years without an identity

By Reema Elissa
Special to The Star

CINEMA PRODUCTION was introduced to Egypt, as to the rest of the Third World, through colonisation. Naturally, this cinema mainly served the aims of the colonial rulers offering little but emotional compensation to the colonized.

Unfortunately, the situation did not change after the independence of Egypt and the Egyptian cinema has generally remained a poor imitation of Hollywood with all its concepts.

The revolution of 1952 was a turning point in Egyptian history which left its marks on the cinema as well, but the real shock, and transformation, came after defeat in the 1967 war with Israel.

Egyptian intellectuals began to question and analyze their situation and some of the best films in the history of Egyptian cinema appeared during that period. However, although the cinema in Egypt began to follow a new trend, this trend could not easily escape the existing concepts. Hundreds of films are now produced in Egypt every year and the dominant form remains the romantic, tear-jerking melodrama. These films copy the worst of Hollywood, especially the idea of the strong, rich and handsome hero and star.

Egyptian film stars have now become famous throughout the Arab world, starting with Anwar Waheed 30 years ago then moving on to Mohamed Sarhan, Ahmed Ramzi, Omar Sherif, Hassan Youssef, Mahmoud Youssef and, more recently, Hussein Fahmi. Egypt's film heroines have also become household names among Arab film fans.

Hussein Fahmi who is one of Egypt's top stars at present, studied directing in Egypt and the United States though he made his debut in the cinema as an actor.

He says "I waited for the right time to become a director in order to convey my ideas in a way I'm satisfied with."

Hussein Fahmi, just as the rest of the Egyptian film stars, has long been accused of entering the cinema through his good looks. He defends himself saying, "I don't think that my face is behind my fame as a star. In fact I have played many roles that did not depend on my good looks, such as the role of a retarded man. I even won live awards during my fifteen years as an actor, do you suppose I got them for my good looks? I wasn't welcomed by critics when I first appeared in the cinema, but I continued acting to prove to everybody that I have the talents in addition to the good looks."

Hussein Fahmi has appeared in more than fifty films. But how many out of these left their mark on the history of the Egyptian cinema? Hussein Fahmi answers, "good films are always few if not rare. Still I appeared in a few good and distinguished films that were praised by the critics, films like, "Dishonour," "The Runaway," "The Guilty," and "To Save What Could Be Saved," which was shown recently at the Cine Club.

There have been individual good films but to date there is no such thing as a time Egyptian cinema reflecting an Egyptian personality with its Pharaonic and Arab-Islamic elements. This is why a film like "The Mummy" by the director Shadi Abdel Salam gained such popularity especially among Western critics. This film searched for the Egyptian identity throughout its history and civilizations.

There have been other films that also tried to establish an Egyptian cinema with its own distinct character. The films of Youssef Sefeh, Kamal Alshouk, Henry Barakat, Shadi Abdel Salam, Kamal Salameh have all made their contribution.

Despite their efforts the Egyptian cinema has still not managed to establish its own identity and become a national cinema even

after 50 years of existence. Its situation contrasts strongly with African cinema which, in only 20 years and in very difficult conditions, has established such an identity.

The African cinema has been known ever since Ousmane Sembene's film appeared under the title of "La Nocturne". This Senegalese director earned the praise of many critics and opened the doors for other African directors. Now names such as Traore and Safi Faye of Senegal, Souhail Melendore of Angola, Sulaiman Cissi of Mali, and the late Oumarou Guada of Niger, with many others, are fully recognized and respected at international film festivals.

We also cannot forget the important role that Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco play in the African cinema with such distinguished directors as Lakhdar Hasselina, Rida Bahl, Ibrahim Tsaki, Abdelatif Bin Ammar, Hamid Benani, Suhail Bin Barakat and Ahmed Mainouni.

The Egyptian cinema is now undergoing a crisis. Even since Saudi Arabia stopped advertising through television, hundreds of low-standard films have been produced in Egypt every year just to provide the means for advertising through video.

On the other hand, the Egyptian



MIRAGE
In Concert At
Cinema Concord
Theatre
Thursday 30-1
Friday 31-1
Saturday 1-2
Sunday 2-2
time at 3-30pm
tickets are
available at
cinema concord

PRICE 3 J.D

FURNISHED FLAT NEAR FIFTH CIRCLE

Two bedroomed flat with its own entrance, garden, garage & telephone, centrally heated, fully carpeted, American appliances.

Call: 873166

Amman
642043

Optikos Jordan
Jordan
Intercontinental
Hotel

امتكوس الاردن
فندق الاردن
انمصاصي فني نظر
وعمران لاصفة
Eyes Examined
Contact Lenses
7 Days a Week

Same Day Delivery

Moderate Prices

By Dr Ahmad Majdoubah

Teaching Literature at College Level: The moral and intellectual dimensions

AMONG THE topics debated at the four-day literature conference held at Yarmouk University last October was the controversial question of literature and morality. Following the reading of a challenging paper on the issue, there was a rather heated, though friendly, discussion of not just the paper's specific thesis itself — which deprives literature of any positive role — but also, more generally, of literature's academic and universal functions.

A split in the participants' views was obvious. Some felt that teaching literature at the college level is essential not simply because the discipline already exists and a large number of students demands it, but because it fulfills important educational and moral needs. Others, some of whom have — significantly enough — been teaching literature for over twenty years, insisted that studying, and consequently teaching, literature is quite simply a bourgeois, and ultimately fruitless, activity.

This, of course, is not the first time the question has been raised: effectively from Plato (and even before) till now, people have been constantly thinking and writing about it. And yet while the question itself remains the same and while the proposed answers, more or less, echo each other, there has always been a certain justification and, consequently, even an advantage in invoking the matter. This is certainly true, and particularly relevant, in our own age and at this particular stage in Jordan's history.

At a time when over 4,000 students at Jordan's three universities alone are excluding those at the community colleges and the universities abroad, major in literature, and at a time when the country continues, as part of the overall philosophy of development, to assess the value of its fundamental programmes, among which the academic is an important one; it seems not only necessary, but even inevitable, to raise (a) the general question of what students actually gain from studying literature and (b) the more specific one regarding the role literature learning and teaching play in development. The answer to (b) depends on (a).

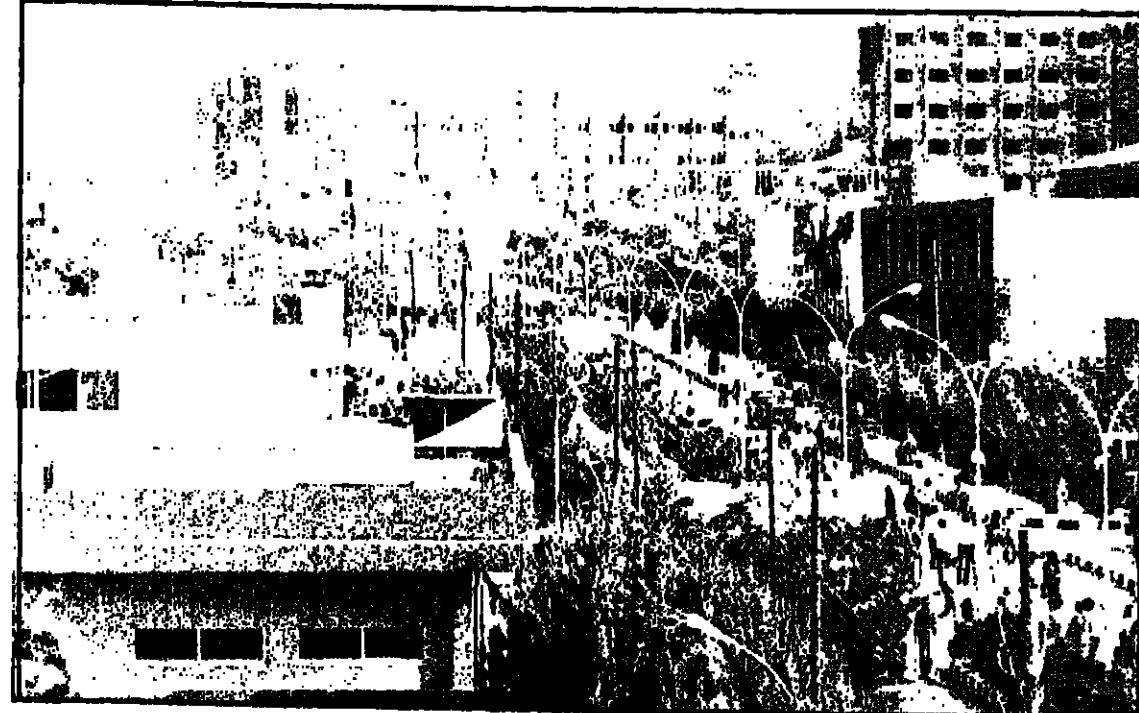
Teaching literature, whether at college or before, is necessary for several reasons. First, since literature is an integral part of one's own culture, an acquaintance with it becomes, sociologically and anthropologically speaking, an educational necessity — for adequate knowledge of one's culture is universally recognized as fundamental educational goal. Second, literature, native as well as foreign, helps to greatly improve one's linguistic performance.

Both of these functions — awareness of one's culture and mastery of its language — are also essential to the individual's effectiveness as a member in society. But the following more crucial functions need to be discussed in some detail.

The first is related to how much the teaching of literature affects the students' moral standards, an issue which is indeed more complex than one may at first think. There is no doubt that the greatest classics in literature contain valuable truth and that, with very few exceptions, each text has a moral statement — in some cases anti-moral as well — of some relevance and importance to us. Some of Al-Mutanabbi's best lines, for example, are considered best precisely because of the moral 'wisdom' they contain.

Individual morality

Moreover, a serious reading of a literary text does undoubtedly af-



A panoramic view of the Yarmouk University

fect our individual morality. The reading process, on the one hand, effects an interaction between the reader and the text — for while reading we will inevitably be moved by the statement the text contains. Such an interaction reflects itself in either an emotional response or, more importantly, an intellectual one. The reader, in the former case as much as the latter, is morally moved: pro or con.

But we should emphasize, on the other hand, that the implications of this interaction are different from what we generally expect. "Affect is not synonymous to 'instill' or 'plant'." Quite frankly, I do not think that literature, especially in our part of the world, can "provide" our college students with moral standards. True, in today's Western societies the case is different: Literature may in fact play a somewhat important role in immensely shaping, and sometimes even creating, the individual's moral standards.

As studies have shown, a significant majority of American students, for example, view the college years as exploratory, not merely with regards to their fields of specialization, but in relation to their individual morality. At this level, the literary text may in effect function as a "source" for moral standards. And this accounts for the relatively large number of moral conversions (as well as the widespread moral confusion) at American colleges.

In our Arab societies, by contrast, the situation is remarkably different. The ultimate source, almost the one and only, for our moral standards, whether we are conscious of it or not, is religion. It lives with us in the family, in the neighbourhood, at school, and at the university. By the time our students come to college they therefore have already developed — even though they may not be intellectually aware of it — rather firm moral positions. And they are fairly uncompromising regarding these positions (even though, as will be shown, their behaviour may at times run counter to their beliefs). One has this or that moral standard, and it is very rare, if any, that one moves from "this" to "that".

For this reason, the teaching of literature at our colleges is not go-

ing to convert the students morally. And we should not pretend that it either does or ought to. The fact that we come across a text which greatly moves us (say a few lines from Shawq) and adopt it and recite it enthusiastically on occasion is no indication that this text has created a moral inside us. Rather, our adoption and recital of it signify that we find in it the best expression of a moral we all ready have. Thus, what ultimately changes when we read a text is not the moral per se, but our expression of it.

Is teaching literature then, in this particular respect, simply a waste of time and effort? Far from it, for literature plays the important role of fostering and strengthening individual morality. As Zola once remarked, literature is "morality in action." In other words, seeing one's moral standards shared, and sometimes even challenged, in a text is undoubtedly very rewarding. Quite often, we believe in certain moral standards but because of the prevalence of counter morality among peers or even in society at large, we shy away from expressing them or, in some extreme cases, from admitting their existence even to ourselves. Reading a text therefore which dramatically propounds these same morals will undoubtedly strengthen our belief in them and, more significantly, encourage us to assert them more openly and confidently.

This is really important, for paradoxically enough, while most of our students, and citizens more generally, have somewhat firm moral beliefs, those beliefs, because of the aforementioned direct or indirect counter peer and social pressure, do not necessarily control or govern external behaviour. This unhealthy phenomenon calls indeed for much concern. Therefore, by reinforcing individual morality, which ought to be made a top priority in teaching the humanities and literature but also the sciences, we should begin to eliminate this phenomenon and overcome the problematic paradox.

The intellectual

Literature's second important

function, which is at present even more crucial than the first, is the intellectual. Most readers are aware of the lack of intellectual stimulation for our children and grownups alike. As a matter of fact, our educational institutions, the informal as much as the formal, are almost anti-intellectual. Very few families encourage their children to think. In some families children are literally shut up. They cannot express their opinion, cannot ask questions, and are sometimes even deprived of the right to talk. For most families, the good child is not the one who questions or argues a point, but the one who simply accepts and obeys.

The same unfortunate situation prevails in our schools. There is no doubt that our formal educational system has improved a great deal, but when it comes to developing the students' intellectual abilities it is still lagging behind. Our schools quite simply, though inadvertently, discourage creative and critical thinking. The good student is the one who memorizes the text, not who truly comprehends it; who repeats the teacher's words verbatim, not who expresses his own understanding of them; who gives the "right" answer, not who intelligently ventures a different one.

The student is in no better situation among his peers. Like the family and the school, the clique frowns at intellectual activities. The "serious" person, who happens to like reading books or talking about important issues rationally and intelligently, is considered at best a bore and a nuisance.

I have not sketched this somewhat dismal picture to be critical of our educational systems, but rather to point to the crucial area to which university education should (in great part) be directed, and to the important role literature can play in this respect since the pre-college years do not make adequate use of the learner's intellectual abilities, the college years should aim to compensate the student doubly for this loss.

Literature may not be the only discipline to contribute greatly to this goal, but it certainly is unique

in the nature and scope of its intellectual challenge. Literary criticism, especially our contemporary place great emphasis on the reader's mental response (a) to texts. They emphasize that literary texts are no longer seen to have meanings, but a multiplicity of meanings; and it is the reader's job to arrive at as many as possible through as many angles and approaches as available. Such a position poses a special intellectual challenge to the reader: demands of the mind a greater effort in attempting to determine those meanings.

This is especially significant, for the ultimate benefit the student gets from studying literature is clearly not the information it amasses, but the mental exercise. Just as jogging aims to develop the physical muscles and create a healthy body, so does the literary text: it also develops the intellectual muscles and creates a healthy mind. And indeed we do want to graduate human "encyclopaedias," students who are good at storing knowledge, but rather citizens with sharp minds who know where to find knowledge, and, more importantly, how and when to use it. As I keep telling my students, in a couple of years they may forget the plot of *Moby-Dick* or *To Whom the Bell Tolls*, but they will never lose the intellectual "skill" they have developed.

This last point brings us to the relationship between literature and development. Quite briefly, the teaching of literature at our universities aims to (and if it still does not, ought to) provide the student with a "skill" more important and effective than all of the technical skills he may develop elsewhere. It is indeed the intellectual skill, the technical, which plays the decisive role in development in the end.

Yes, our students need all the technical training they can get; they need to be thoroughly familiarized with the most sophisticated and advanced technology. And to say the truth, the government has been diligently and admirably doing all it can to contribute to this end. Our higher academic institutions, also, lead the best there is in Engineering, Computer Science, and Industrial Design.

But technical training is not the crucial factor in development. Otherwise, why do our highly qualified computer specialists, for example, make mistakes left and right in our computerized telephone bills, electricity bills, registration certificates at colleges, etc? Why are engineers put together, let alone truly design and manufacture a kerosene heater that does not leak? Why cannot our traffic engineers make up their minds about traffic direction in downtown Amman, Zarqa, and Irbid?

Does the solution lie in more technical training? Not quite. The real obstacles to development — i.e. vexing bureaucracy; professional carelessness; individual inefficiency, irresponsibility, absent-mindedness — are at bottom moral and intellectual. Most of the projects we implement and the services we offer do not live up to our expectations because those carrying them out are not, to put it politely, morally and intellectually qualified.

If therefore we want our citizens to contribute efficiently, responsibly, and positively each his/her own field, we clearly need to address the real causes of these obstacles. Quite simply, the solution lies not in more technical, moral and intellectual education. It is precisely this type of educational challenge that literature can best provide.

Dr Ahmad Majdoubah is an Assistant Professor in the English Language Department at the Yarmouk University, Irbid.

JORDANIAN THEATRE has not been able up till now to make its presence felt either within the popular or within the cultural circles. Of all the arts and other cultural activities, the theatre remains the most isolated and most endangered of all cultural functions in Jordan. Of course the theatre is not the only form of artistic expression that is suffering in our country. The whole literary and artistic establishment is feeling the brunt of popular apathy and official disinterest. But the theatrical movement is taking the largest share of failure and the highest dose of bad luck. It is our purpose, therefore, to highlight some of the problems that face the theatrical movement in Jordan, with the hope that this exposition of the sad state of our theatre is somehow going to contribute to its advancement, or at least to draw people's attention to this constant deterioration of our theatrical movement.

One of the most curious facts about the theatre in Jordan is that it is the most depressed of all national theatres in the Arab world. Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Iraq and even Kuwait all enjoy a thriving and popular theatrical movement. In all of these countries, the theatre has managed to hold a commanding position within the hearts and minds of many people. Neither TV nor the cinema can even dare to compete with a good play that is being shown live on any of the theatres in these countries. But, here in Jordan, it is a totally different case.

Failure

Failure seems to be the distinguishing trait of both serious and entertainment theatre. The production of any play is a high-risk activity in Jordan, and if the producer ends up (even) after the curtain of the last show falls down, he can count his blessings! Many people who have tried to diagnose this peculiar phenomenon, came up with this argument as a likely solution for the riddle of theatrical failure in Jordan, when the theatre in neighbouring countries seems to be doing well. TV, they said, is the main culprit. The fact that TV was introduced in Jordan at a very early stage has contributed to the failure of the theatre in Jordan. TV has dealt the dramatic movement a paralyzing blow, before this movement had the opportunity to dig roots, as it were, in people's hearts and minds. In many other Arab countries, the theatre was at one point the only outlet of serious cultural enhancement, or popular entertainment. So when TV was introduced at a later stage it was not possible for it to threaten a popular and loved medium like the theatre.

The damaging role of TV has not stopped at dealing the paralyzing

blow to dramatic life in its infancy, but rather continued to have a negative impact on the theatrical movement in various ways. Playwrights, or drama writers, are tempted in several ways to write their scripts for TV rather than for the theatre. Actors are also drawn to act on TV plays and reap high financial benefits, and the prestigious benefit of constant exposure to go with it. Many serious and dedicated artists have fallen out of favour among colleagues and fans in the cultural establishment for selling their talents out so cheaply for the sake of TV.

It is, of course, quite easy to pick on actors or artists who stop working for the theatre, and decide, instead, to devote their professional life to TV work. But we might end-up being more sympathetic if we just hear some of the stories of human suffering that theatre artists have to tell. Many able and respectable artists have

either fallen sick or become injured as a result of their work on stage. But in all cases, they have been left to suffer alone or die alone, with nobody around to extend a helping hand or even to express sympathy. So, before blaming these artists for rising up to do

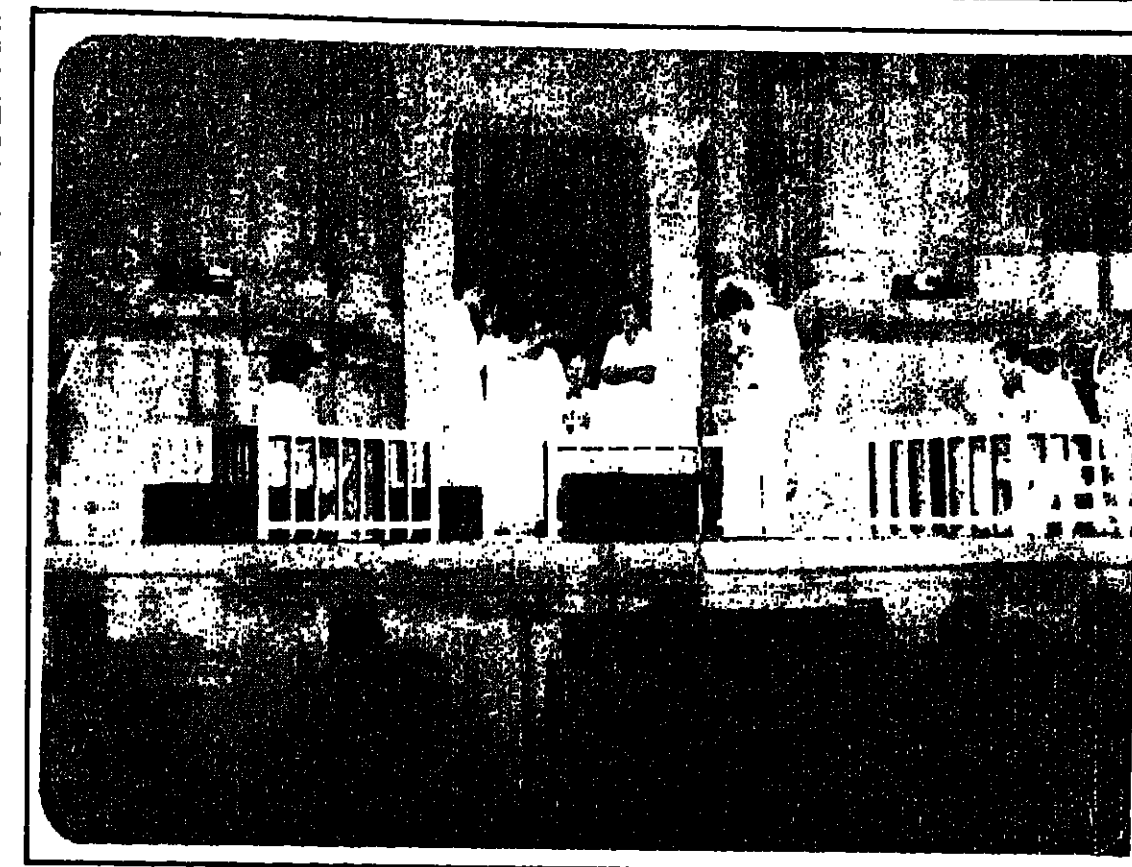
something for their families, we should ask ourselves what have we done for them. We should also ask the official departments and the private sector about the extent of their contribution to the advancement of theatrical life in Jordan.

By Dr Nabil El-Sharif

The theatre, in other words, does not grow out of the blue, and does not thrive out of nowhere. If nothing is being done to encourage actors and playwrights to work for the theatre, we should not be surprised at this far from satisfactory state of Jordanian theatre.

TV has not only tempted actors and playwrights away from the theatre, but has also won a large number of the population to its enchanted realms. The audience in Jordan would rather see a movie or a play on TV in the privacy of their own homes, and a large portion of this viewing audience would not think even for a moment to go and watch live play that is being shown on stage. Public re-education as to the importance of the theatre is, therefore one of the areas that have to be tackled

jordan



A Jordanian group performs at the Jerash Festival

The crisis of Jordanian theatre

If we are interested in upgrading the quality of our national theatre,

Crisis of identity

As it stands now, our theatre also suffers from an acute crisis of identity. Jordanian theatre has always rightly identified itself with Arab theatre. And we are in agreement that it should do so. But Jordanian theatre should also look for its distinctive national characteristics. The Egyptian theatre, for instance, is part and parcel of the (main-stream) Arab theatre, but it also tackles issues and concerns that are specifically Egyptian.

If Jordanian theatre is to emulate the highly successful Egyptian theatre, it will have to tackle issues that concern all Arabs, but it will also have to devote the greatest time delving into its own national psyche, and bringing up the concerns and interests of the Jordanian viewing public.

Language

Another dimension of our theatre's crisis of identity revolves around the issue of language. Our script writers have always been puzzled and confused as to which

dialect or language to choose. Very often, they have to either choose to write their plays in classical Arabic or in the Jordanian dialect. Both options, however, have their pitfalls and shortcomings. If they were to choose the Jordanian dialect then they run the risk of breaking new grounds, and become easy targets for some die-hard classicists who are not even ready to give dialects the slightest chance to prove themselves artistically. And if they choose the classical Arabic language as medium for their plays, then they run the risk of alienating their audience who might not even be familiar with the deeper shades of the classical Arabic language. And since it is not our intention here to suggest remedies for the problems of Jordanian theatre, but rather to expose these problems, we can only suggest as a way out of the language problem that dramatists and playwrights should first agree among themselves on this issue, and then present themselves to the public as a unified block with united attitudes and firm beliefs. And it is my contention that the public will ultimately respect and then embrace whatever the dramatists themselves agree upon.

Many Jordanian playwrights have resorted to translations of famous works from other languages to make up for the inavailability of original ideas. But these translations are often done by hack or third-rate writers who do not fully know the rules of either Arabic or the text's original language. The outcome of this activity is no less than a catastrophe in many cases. A national board, therefore, should be set-up to oversee this activity of translating texts from foreign languages to ensure that the texts are fit to be translated in the first place, and to guide the translator along in the tedious and risky task of translation. Kuwait University, for instance, has such a board that is doing a good job of translating plays in a professional and highly respectable fashion. Our universities are equipped to carry out such a task, and all they need is some encouragement and some financial aid to do this task.

The uncontrolled activity of translation from foreign languages or adaptation from other Arab theatres is threatening the very identity of our national theatre. A Jordanian critic summed up the crisis of Jordanian theatre by saying, albeit sarcastically, that our theatre has too much (hamburger) and very little Z'atar or thyme which is a popular national food in Jordan and Palestine! What this critic is implying, however, is clear for adaptations and translations will never create a successful national theatre, just like hamburger will always be a (foreign) food even though new fast-food chains are opening up very rapidly in our country!

Leaving Jordan?

Stay in touch!

Subscribe to

The Jerusalem Star

now at cheaper rates.

Call us on 667 177,8,9 for details

The Jerusalem Star

Chairman, Board of Directors
Kamel El-Sherif

Director General & Editor in Chief
Mahmoud El-Sherif

Responsible Editor
Abdel Salam El-Tarawneh

Editor
Osama El-Sherif

Managing Director
Tawfiq Kiswan

Director of Advertising
Youssef Amari

Published every Thursday in Amman by the Jordan Press & Publishing Co.,
(Ad-Dustour). Telex 21392 Media Jo. Tel. 667177, 8, 9



Reagan and sanctions against Libya

By Dana Adams Schmidt

"My brother and I against my cousin; my cousin and I against the stranger"

THIS OLD Arab proverb was forgotten by President Reagan and his closest advisers (if they ever heard of it) in their first reaction to the atrocious terrorist bombings at the Rome and Vienna airports. Forgotten surely by Secretary George Shultz who made himself the military advocate, and by such extremists as Senator Howard Metzenbaum, Democrat of Ohio, who wants to assassinate President Qadhafi.

What they all forgot (and most of the US press too), was that there was a reason for the crime — that it was not just a vicious act but was meant to serve the cause of occupied Palestine; that the terrorists, the Palestinians, Qadhafi, the Egyptians, the Jordanians, the Syrians and the Saudis are all Arabs; and that these Arabs, linked by the Arab League, tend to hang together, especially for the Palestinian cause.

Now wiser counsel has prevailed and President Reagan, confronted by unanimous Arab and European opposition to his first threats, has backtracked. He may have reflected on misbegotten US efforts to persuade Europeans to back US moves to prevent construction of an oil pipeline from Siberia to Europe. Or he may have considered that the Israeli reprisal raid against PLO headquarters in Tunisia took many innocent lives and certainly did the peace process a lot of harm. Or it may have been instinct: President Reagan's instincts are often right.

So the Reagan Administration is confining itself to economic sanctions, which will not

do any good, but which will probably not be the US in opposition to the whole world.

The US economic boycott of Libya is, nonetheless, very severe. Not only will it be to or purchases from Libya be prohibited, US financial institutions will freeze Libyan assets amounting to about \$400 million. The last time this was done it was a step for action by state-supported terrorists took hostage the entire staff of the American embassy.

The State Department is asking European nations not to take over economic roles vacated by Americans. But this is probably much to expect. About one thousand American technicians man the petroleum industry and are well-paid (about \$90,000 a year) and well-treated. They are even asked to send home a large part of their salaries. And there are a number of British, French, German and Italian technicians who are itching to take over.

The only concession to Reagan by the Europeans who are deeply frightened by a Libyan economy is that the Italians say they will not sell arms to Libya.

Unfortunately Arabists are not in Reagan's Washington. But if one of them should reach the President's ear, he will point out that in this affair, as in the Arab League, it is the United States that is the stranger, and that progress in the peace process would be a dread time more important than any possible reprisals for terrorists' excesses.

letters

Attacks on Al-Aqsa Mosque

To the editor

The recent Zionist attempts to profane Al-Aqsa Mosque are not the first and will not be the last. As long as Israel is still occupying Palestine, we should expect more and more acts of aggression against Al-Aqsa Mosque and all other sacred places in Palestine. What really amazes me is that we, I mean Arabs, raise hell and make a fuss about these acts of aggression while we have already accepted the fait accompli of Israeli occupation of the entire Palestine.

We, Palestinians and other Arabs, are now very familiar, and even bored, with practically meaningless shouts and slogans uttered at conferences and meetings. What we really need is action. For condemnations and other sorts of declarations do not stop fanatic Zionists from entering Al-Aqsa and performing their disgusting rituals in front of thousands of Muslims who come to perform their prayers.

The Arab nation is just watching the courageous men who are confronting the Zionist forces with no weapons except a strong faith within their hearts. This faith has made them not at all fanatic Zionists but men who are heartily guarding this beloved place. These men are not in need of our verbal support. They need a real support.

A minority of Arabs are really interested in what is happening in Palestine and are taking the responsibility of any sense of responsibility towards it. This attitude of these people who are just busy saving themselves with their bodily pleasures is leading the Arab nation to more shame, humility, and succumb.

Then we shouldn't be shocked if that bunch of criminals profane or burn or destroy all the holy places in Palestine. For it is the responsibility of every Arab to defend and review his accounts and think positively of his attitude towards the Israeli occupation of Palestine.

M. Atiyah
Amman-Jordan

Traveller's notebook (1)

The way we are

TO BE able to escape from the Arab world for a breather is indeed a blessing to thank God for. In my job, I could go completely mad if I allowed myself to sink in the trivialities of everyday political, social and economic styles and traditions of this region. To explain the inexplicable, and justify the unwarranted, is a task only a suicidal prophet — one of those prophets whom even the Holy Book forgets to mention — would dare to tackle.

The first indication that you have left the Arab domain is the fact that your humanity is struck with life and your soul with spirit. You discover that life and the whole world do not revolve around the Arabs, as we have been brought up to think, but that there are so many nations which deserve to think so about themselves — and rightly so.

But being away from the Arab world — even by physical forces of lands, rivers, oceans and cultures — seems not to deter the 'poisons' of the Arab world from slipping through to contaminate other cultures. I was shocked to find that even in the faraway city of Taipei, Taiwan, news of Qadhafi's misadventures and South Yemen's tribal feuding along with Hobelka's defection and East Beirut car blast have all occupied the front page of the daily China Post. The editors of the paper appeared to know very little about the issues and their backgrounds, but they were sure that the Middle East remains the best plot of land where one can reap the most sensational news.

To find that 4 out of 7 leading articles dealt with the Arab world in a newspaper more than 8,000 kilometres away from home is very flattering. The Arabs remain the centre of news — bad news.

The Libyan Colonel and his 'romance' with the United States puzzled many in the Far East. Who is he and what do we, the Arabs, feel about him? Is he a madman or a genius...or both? A revolutionary, as he claims, or a simple case of ego worship. I had no answer for myself wondering about the nature of Qadhafi and he never ceases to amaze me. My Chinese friends felt amused at the adventures of the colonel and at the United States' inability to contain him — until now. The Chinese also find the Lebanese war an equally interesting issue of conversation. They cannot make themselves understand why such a small country would go to the extent of destroying itself and its chances of survival in such a harsh world for nothing. I also felt I was not supplying good answers probably because there aren't any. But what tops all other topics is the Iran-Iraq war. No justifications would quench their thirst and satisfy their curiosity. To them, the case of two countries warring while their wealth, power and thousands of young men is running against the logic of living and statehood.

But the most embarrassing question for me was the case of South Yemen. It was a typical South Yemen episode; a state of mind which the Yemenis like to experience

every five or ten years. But how can I explain this to people who in less than three decades have managed to build one of East Asia's strongest economic citadels and have created a country which the whole world deals with and respects.

So instead of asking questions about the miracles of East Asian countries, I found myself answering questions about the Middle East, this bizarre part of the globe which refuses to follow the more rational course of history which is nation building. I lost all sense of proportion as I stumbled with questions and inquiries to which I had no answers. So after I had said all I had, I would withdraw and think deeply with an injured heart of the lost pride of my people.

The laymen know only that the Middle East is a dangerous place to be, while the experienced politicians tend to show some sympathy whenever the issue of the Middle East comes up. They claim that they do not understand. But I can sense that they don't and why should I blame them when I myself am confused.

I failed to teach anyone something about my own world. But I learned much about theirs. There was something to learn in the Far East, which is sometimes beset by wars and tension. But one can spend his whole life savouring the Chinese character at work and search to explain its genuine strife to reach the goal of becoming strong and independent.



By Osama El-Sherif

Uganda: Bloody events

THE EAST African nation of Uganda is on the brink of collapse as government troops have lost to the rebel forces of the National Resistance Army (NRA) in the battle for the control of the capital Kampala. Since 1971 when Idi Amin overthrew the civilian administration of Milton Obote, Uganda's history has been a chequered one.

Idi Amin had run a government so ruthless that a few Ugandans today would like to be reminded about it. Violence, murder and massacre were almost institutionalized in the period between 1971-1979 when Amin was overthrown by Ugandan rebels supported by Tanzanian forces. The interim administration prepared the grounds for general elections and a return to civilian rule.

Milton Obote's party won the elections and so he came back to power. Obote's immediate efforts at achieving a national reconciliation were unsuccessful as the country was so much divided. Therefore, there was continuous violence all over the country. In the wake of these troubles, the National Resistance Army was formed. At the beginning, Obote underestimated the strength of the resistance and the effects of its activities on the people.

With the passage of time, the NRA worked its way up the ladder and soon came to be recognized by the people. Life in Uganda became very insecure as day in and out, there were reports of massacres and random clashes. The government as it were, tried to contain the resistance with equal force, which unfortunately worsened the situation. Meanwhile the morale of the government troops was getting lower and lower.

In April, 1985 the military again took over power and once more Obote was kicked out. General Tito Okello who assumed power thought he could bring some relief to Ugandans by working to end the violence in the country. He quickly agreed to the sharing of power with the leaders of the NRA. The two parties signed a peace accord five weeks ago in Nairobi, Kenya, but this proved abortive — almost at the same time it was being signed.

Now, the resistance forces are in full control of Kampala and the government troops are reported to be fleeing. In their retreat the troops are committing atrocities. One report in the week said the government soldiers either shot civilians or cut their throats. There seems to be no way by which the government soldiers can beat back the rebels because, there is no more discipline within their ranks.

If the NRA gets overall control of the country, it will mean an overthrow of the Okello military government. This will also lead to another protracted bush war as the government troops are still armed and will still be offering resistance to whoever is in power.

All these bloody events do not augur well for the future of Uganda, once a prosperous and still potentially a rich country. Whither the leaders of the country are drifting, no one knows, but whether to the East, West, North or South, they should bear in mind that there are children in the country whose future must be cared for.

'Last Hope' fades

without the approval of the cabinet, also proved futile. Syria which has brought the warring factions together is determined to keep the past alive.

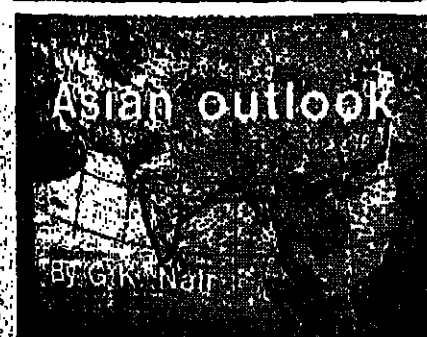
Its influence on the majority of the people in Lebanon might contribute much to the planned ouster of President Gemayel.

It is unfortunate that even after 11 years of fighting Lebanon's leaders fail to understand that cannons cannot bring reconciliation in the country.

The religious feuds have made the country a ghost nation. A political reconciliation between the major and minor fragments of the population should have to be achieved without the help of the guns. But for that the power sharing should be based on the present population ratio of the various religions in the country. The Christians were given the presidency in early 1920s by the

French. That was because then they were the majority in Lebanon. But the situation has changed and hence the constitution needs to be changed, to accommodate the demands of the majority.

If the Lebanese leaders succeed in drawing up a constitution which could provide the country with a democratic base, the problem in Lebanon could be easily solved. The people should be given the opportunity to elect their representatives through free and fair elections to determine which of the religious or political parties enjoy the most support. Whoever may emerge victorious with the majority votes should rule and that could help end the turmoil for ever. Otherwise, the militias in Lebanon will have to rule the regions where they are predominant — cantonization would be the result. Such situations in the past invited and still invite foreign powers into the country.



THE LAST hope for peace in Lebanon is diminishing. The agreement that was signed last month in Damascus between the leaders of the three major militias did not receive the endorsement of the Lebanese President Amin Gemayel. And the President's rejection of the peace accord in fact has plunged the nation into one of its worst political crises since the beginning of the civil strife 11 years ago.

The accord which was signed by Nabih Berri, leader of the Muslim Amal militia, Walid Jumblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party and Elie Hobeika, the Chief of the Christian Lebanese forces, was expected to receive the backing of the president. Mr Gemayel's backing for the accord could have averted the present crisis as his support would have persuaded the Phalangist Party leaders to accept the peace agreement that was reached after marathon consultations between the Lebanese leaders and the Syrian government officials.

But President Gemayel's aversion to accept the peace agreement on the ground that it has made too many concessions to the majority Muslims, has split the Lebanese Christian forces led by Elie Hobeika. This has led to the fighting between the rival Christian forces, which has taken 350 lives in the past few weeks.

It is also believed another reason for Gemayel's rejection of the accord is that it was signed on behalf of the Christians by Elie Hobeika who is the main challenger for the leadership of Lebanon's 1.8 million Christians. Two weeks after signing the accord, Hobeika was ousted as the leader of the Lebanese Christian forces. In addition to the fighting between the rival Christian factions, fighting between the Christian and Muslim militias erupted across Beirut's dividing Green Line and there are signs of its escalation.

Gemayel's latest efforts to debate the peace accord at a special cabinet session ended when six of the nine cabinet ministers boycotted his meeting. His call for a special parliament session which cannot be held



Gemayel and Jumblatt in the past: Do they see each other now?

Israeli air raids

ISRAEL'S AIR raids against Palestinian refugee camps on Wednesday were not, as Israeli claimed, directed against "terrorist" bases in South Lebanon. The real target was hundreds of miles away from the two refugee camps. It was here in Amman, Israel wanted to destroy the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue.

Some months ago when His Majesty King Hussein was visiting the United States and seeking to persuade the Americans of accepting the PLO and recognize its role in the making of peace, Israel aimed at shattering away any signs of Palestinian moderation. So Israeli warplanes attacked the PLO headquarters in Tunis and invited Palestinian militant reaction. We all know the chain of reactions which followed.

But we think Israel's bet is on the wrong number. If Israel is aiming at disbanding the Palestinian-Jordanian meetings then it must be really frightened of what such meetings might bring out. A Palestinian recognition of Resolutions 242 and 338 at this juncture will put the Israeli government between a stone and a hard place. This is surely not the time for Israel to face another international outcry demanding a kind response to the Palestinian gesture.

At any rate, the Israeli air attack will not only affect the current peace efforts, but will also damage the US image and its role in the region. For how can the United States claim that it is interested in maintaining peace in the region when Israeli jets contribute to the widening of the conflicts and to the increasing of tension.

The Israeli method of playing with the Palestinian emotion will not work out this time it seems. Israel's aims are clear and it would be an act of defeating the purpose if the PLO command allowed the Israeli incursions to disrupt an already warm peaceful process. The defenders of peace in the region will have to bear some sacrifices if the precious goal of peace is to be achieved. The protagonists of war will find that their plots and provocations have failed if the peace camp sticks together.

Don't blame Jordan

Israel's accusation on Wednesday of Jordan for the killing of two Israeli soldiers on the occupied West Bank by a Palestinian fighter is nothing but the same old song which has been on the air very often since Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation moved together towards achieving peace in the Middle East.

For this sort of attacks by the resistance forces none other than Israel is responsible as the attacks are the results of frustration and it would only continue spontaneously so long as the indigenous people are denied their rights and homeland.

Jordan has always been at the fore-front for negotiations which could lead to a just and comprehensive peace. Its approach in this direction was evident from the day the Palestine National Council conference was allowed to be held in Amman and the subsequent 11 February accord.

The country's stand is therefore clear to the entire world that it wants peace in the region. Jordan's rapprochement with Syria and its close association with the Palestine Liberation Organisation, the main parties of the Arab-Israeli conflict have since been unpalatable to the Zionist. The intermittent accusation of Jordan of harbouring Palestinian fighters and so on are the clear indications of Israeli bitter feelings.

The inertia experienced by the Israeli military machine since its withdrawal from Lebanon is prompting it to conquer Israel's neighbours. If it attacks Jordan then it will be a suicidal act as Jordan the peace loving country in the region would not be alone and will defend its territory from further aggression.

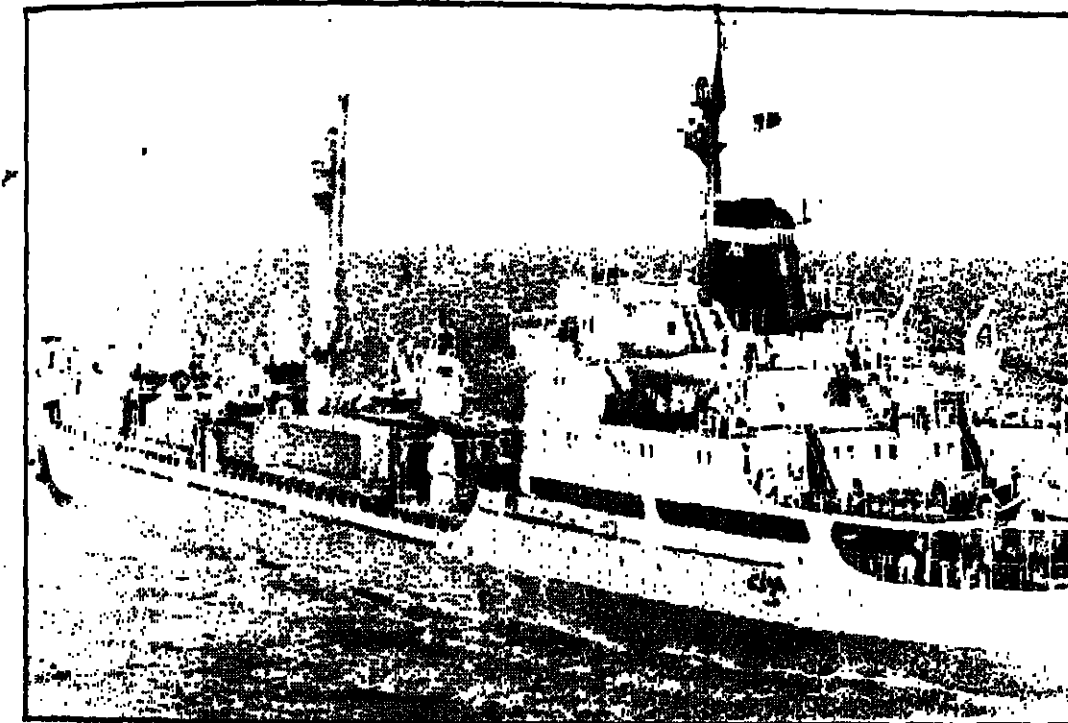
Therefore, if the Arab land occupied in the past are returned then there won't be any attacks and all in the region could live in peace and prosperity.

Letters to the Editor, with the writer's full name and address, should be sent to: The Editor, The Jerusalem Star, P.O. Box 591, Amman Jordan. Letters may be edited for reasons of clarity and/or space. Writers' names and/or addresses can be withheld upon request.

THE JERUSALEM STAR

Finance, business & economy

JNSL look for new routes



A JNSL ship—usually sail to Europe in ballast

IN THE eight months of its operation of the Akaba-Nuweibeh ferry line in 1985, the Jordan National Shipping Lines (JNSL), in co-operation with the Egyptian Navigation Company, managed to capture 66 per cent of passenger traffic on the sea route between Jordan and Egypt.

ties have also helped its popularity.

JNSL's shipping activities in 1985 were not so successful as the company shares the problems of the severely depressed maritime industry. The company has a fleet of three ships, two of 22,000 tonnes and one of 13,700 tonnes (a fourth ship, of 13,700 tonnes, was sold for scrap in 1985), but carried only 200,000 tonnes of cargo in 1985 compared with 250,000 tonnes in 1984. It brings cargoes from Northern Europe and ships

co-operative arrangements with other shipping companies as a means of improving profitability. These arrangements should enable it to expand beyond its present Akaba-Northern Europe work. Agreements are expected soon with Sub-Cargo of France and Kuwait's United Arab Shipping.

A Sub-Cargo agreement would offer access to southern France and to ro-ro facilities and the co-operation is likely to begin with JNSL bookings with the company but should develop into space charter and to joint activity.

With United Arab Shipping, the company would have chances for traffic to the Far East. Discussions are also underway with Nedlloyd with possibilities for bulk operations but details have not yet been settled.

Mr El-Tal explains that the co-operative arrangements with other companies bring the opportunity for expanded markets, lower costs and access to wider experience without the problem of heavy investment in a depressed shipping market. He sees it as the basis for 1987-88 growth though he does not anticipate any real improvement in the world maritime situation before 1990.

JNSL has also been involved as Jordan's representatives in discussions on the establishment of an Iraqi-Jordanian-Egyptian land sea transport company. The anticipated capital of the company is \$15 million and the headquarters will be in Amman. The new company will handle both passengers and cargo but no firm date has been set for its formal establishment.

The JNSL was established in 1976 and began active operations in 1980/81. It is owned, seventy five per cent, by government institutions including the Social Security Corporation and the Akaba Port Authority and the three industrial majors, the Arab Potash, the Jordan Phosphate Mines Co., and the Jordan Fertiliser Industries Company also have shares. The remaining twenty five per cent of the shares are listed on the Amman Financial Market.

By Pam Dougherty
Star Staff writer

usually sail back to Europe in ballast.

According to Mr Tal this 1985 drop is a major factor in the expected 1985 decline in profits from the 1984 figure of JD 498,000 though he says the company's successful activities in chartering, land transport and the Akaba ferry, will ensure that it stays in the black.

The company is now exploring

Contract awarded

• HARROD'S UK has won a JD 250,000 contract to provide furniture for the new Prime Ministry building.

• AMMAN: Two insurance company mergers have been announced. Arab Belgium Insurance and United Insurance Companies, with a combined paid-up capital of \$1.2 million, and the National Insurance Co. and Al-Ahli (Jordan) Insurance Co., with a combined paid-up capital of \$1.1 million, have agreed to merge. Both new firms' paid-up capitals are expected to exceed the \$1.6 million minimum capital requirement.

• RIYAD: Saudi Arabia has 45 joint stock companies with a combined capital of \$13 billion. Kuwait has 43, Oman 37, Bahrain 32, Qatar 14, and the United Arab Emirates 8. Altogether, the 179 joint stock companies of the six member-states of the Gulf Co-operation Council have a combined capital of \$61 billion. There are seven agricultural joint stock companies in the Saudi Kingdom with capital outlays of \$599 million.

(MidEast report)

Press Review

The situation in Occupied Jerusalem

AL-FAJR newspaper of Abu Dhabi asserts that defence of Jerusalem can never be undertaken by a committee and that the task is connected with the availability of efficient Arab-Muslim effort. It says King Hassan of Morocco, who chaired the meeting of Al-Quds committee in Marrakesh last week, was aware of this fact and his address contained the main causes which threaten the Arab and Islamic identity of the holy city.

"The Moroccan monarch held Arab and Muslim states responsible for recent tragic events in occupied Jerusalem because they have failed to mobilize their potentials for the sacred cause of Jerusalem. He urged them to place the issue above all considerations," Al-Fajr notes.

It calls for quick and positive response to King Hassan's appeal and asks that the issue of Jerusalem be given utmost attention.

South Yemen

The Kuwait newspaper Al-Siyassa expresses deep concern over fighting in South Yemen, saying that it could develop into a civil war which may last long. It says an evidence on the possibility of the fighting turning into a civil war is the absence of the legitimate leadership and the apparent ineffectiveness of its role in South Yemen's bloody events.

"In the absence of the legitimate leadership, the ambitions of those seeking power heighten and under such circumstances, each believes that he has the right to assume power," remarks the Kuwait paper.

It goes on to say that no one has so far been able to gain full control, thus opening the way for more fighting that may last for years.

Another Kuwaiti newspaper, Al-Ra'i Al-A'm says that the fighting in South Yemen has been going on because it is no longer confined to rival political factions but has expanded to include various South Yemeni tribes. It says the bloodshed will not stop soon and the massacres may continue even if the victorious party tries to put an end to the fighting.

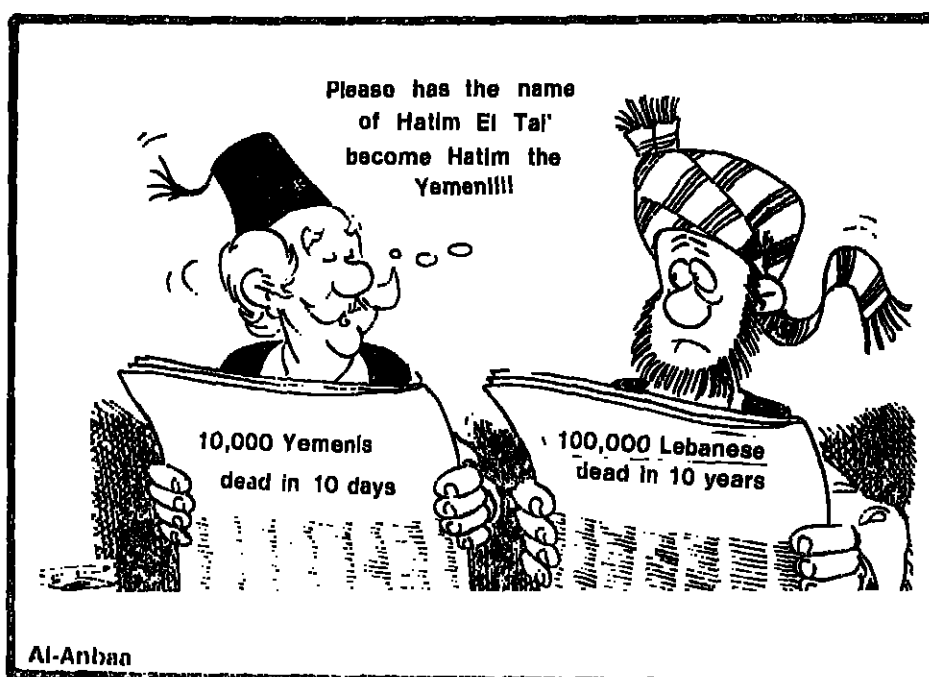
The paper holds the Soviets responsible for the South Yemeni dilemma, saying that they could not have been surprised by the bloody events because they are well-informed about all details of the situation in that Arab country. It says there are other accomplices in the conspiracy which aimed at depleting Aden's resources or what is left of these resources.

It concludes by calling on Gulf states to take quick steps to contain the explosion because its effects will in one way or another reach all states in the region and open a new front parallel in intensity to the Iran-Iraq conflict.

The US-Libyan tension

Al-Ra'i Al-A'm newspaper urges America's friends to settle the US-Libyan crisis because if it is not quickly contained, it could lead to devastating consequences engulfing perhaps the whole region. It says there are several Arab countries on good terms with the United States and capable of influencing Washington and curbing its military push.

Al-Raya, a Qatari newspaper, says the US naval exercises off the Libyan coast came immediately after the US envoy to Europe Whitehead had failed to convince the US-European allies of participating in imposing economic measures against Libya. It adds that the United States seems unconcerned about the serious repercussions which could ensue from its provocative naval exercises and which may turn the Medi-



Al-Anban

terranean into a battleground involving the two superpowers.

Al-Arab, another Qatari newspaper, expresses the view that the US exercises and other military measures could be part of a show of strength in a desperate attempt to save face. But the paper warns against the consequences of the American provocations, saying that they may carry a spark which could turn the whole region into a devastating blaze. The US provocations, the paper adds, could also be used as a cover-up of an Israeli aggression against an Arab country.

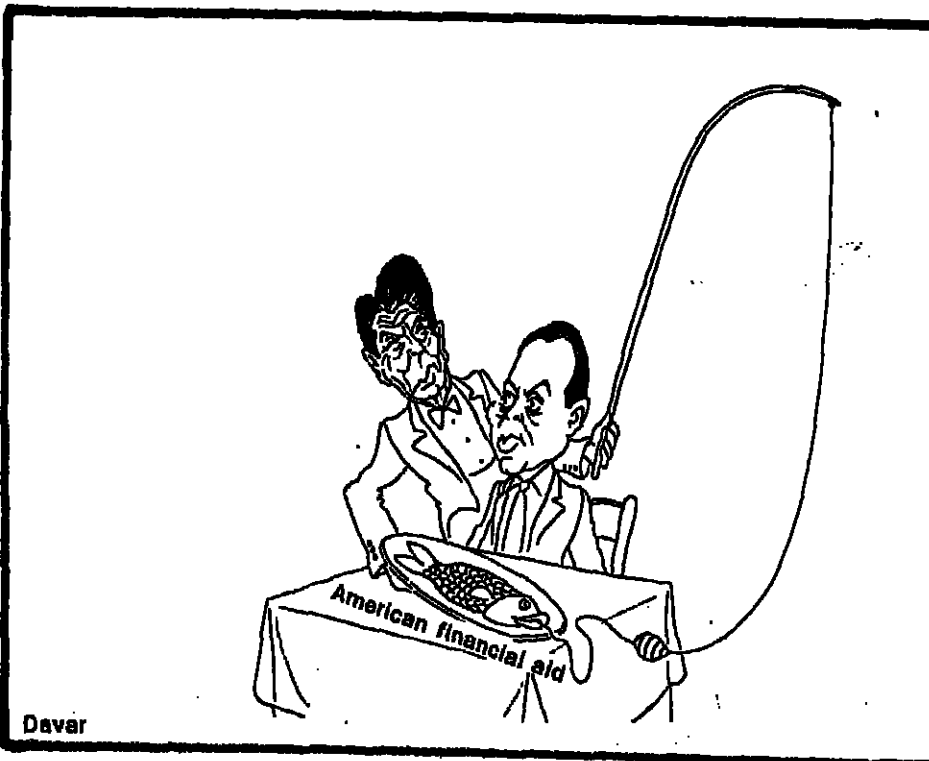
The US veto against Lebanon

The Qatari English-language newspaper The Gulf Times says it was not surprised by the US veto against a UN Security Council resolution condemning Israeli aggressions on South Lebanon. It adds that after

solving disputes among peoples and governments who struggled hard and long for the working out of clear and abiding laws for solving such disputes in accordance with provisions of the UN Charter.

"Whatever the results of the US provocation against Libya may be, and whether it ends up with a show of strength or military confrontation, the image of the United States in this region, and in the world as a whole, will not help in improving its status or promoting its interests. It will not also add to its prestige as a superpower with grave responsibilities towards the cause of peace and security in the world", asserts Ad-Dustour.

Al-Ra'i newspaper commends the decisions taken by the Jordanian government to expand investment opportunities for Arab nationals in Jordan. It says the new measures offer a fresh evidence of the government's keenness to enhance action on a pan-Arab level in the political and economic fields.



Dever

failing to dominate Lebanon through direct invasion, the United States now seeks the same objective with other means. It also attempts to gain control in the Arab world through its total support to the Israeli aggression on the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The paper appeals to the Arabs inside and outside the United States to unite and rally ranks in order to achieve international justice. If the Arabs continue to be divided, the paper adds, they actually extend an open invitation for others to hatch up plots against them.

Ad-Dustour daily remarks that the US military escalation against Libya carries the more serious implication of overlooking reason and resorting to reckless actions in re-

It expresses confidence that the new measures will not only provide Arab investors with the opportunities for successful investment, but will also help them lay down a firm base for a sound Arab economy capable of holding out against all kinds of external pressures.

Israeli Press

Ze Haderich says: While several parties are pushing forward the peace wheel in the area, Prime Minister Peres, declared that the Israeli sovereignty over Jerusalem is perpetual and unrenounceable. For a short time ago the Israeli government has been

trying, through the different international means, to convince the world of its sincere desire for peace, mainly when it agreed to refer the Taba issue to an international arbitration committee.

This was under the conditions that Egypt will send its ambassador back to Israel and push the process of normalizing political and economic relations between the two countries, including a meeting to be held by President Mubarak and Prime Minister Peres.

The paper comments that the Israeli attitude towards Jerusalem is not new, for it has moved the offices of some ministries to the Arab section of Jerusalem. It also attempts to persuade some countries to transfer their embassies to Jerusalem.

Writing on the incidents which took place in the compound at Al Aqsa Mosque, Mr Haer says they should serve as an example for those who are interested in the stability in Jerusalem until a peaceful settlement for the Arab-Israeli conflict is achieved. These incidents says the paper risk the safety of the inhabitants of Jerusalem and the occupied areas as well.

The visit of the Knesset members to Al Aqsa Mosque has precipitated these incidents which were going to develop into bloodshed. The paper adds that, if that visit did not take place, those incidents would have occurred. What is needed from the head of the Knesset is a ban on provoking visits carried out by Knesset members to mainly the Likud and the Hatikha parties.

The paper concludes that it is unreasonable to continue such visits which create more tension and reinforce hatred and animosity among the Arabs and Jews. "We hope that the Knesset members will get good lessons after their visit to the Holy Mosque and then avoid such visits in the future."

Al Fajr Arabic paper writes that the fact which the US Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy had with Prime Minister Shimon Peres and King Hussein has pushed the peace efforts one step forward. This is the least assumption what the left have led to depending on the assertion of Mr Peres that there was progress.

The paper continues: "We would like to ask on which subjects there was progress while the Palestinian representation, which is the main issue, isn't yet discussed or resolved"? There are also other issues which are still pending; mainly the dialogue between the PLO and the United States. There isn't any change in the United States and Israeli attitude regarding that. It is expected that more weeks or even months will elapse before a change on the peace process would appear Al Fajr concludes.

Al Quds also an Arabic paper writes that Richard Murphy has made six visits to the area last year. Those visits didn't push the peace process forward. And by the beginning of this year, Mr Murphy was in Europe and met King Hussein in London and Shimon Peres in Holland. It is believed says the paper, that Mr Murphy has new ideas in his bag. The United States has officially declared its approval of holding peace negotiations in the Middle East under an international umbrella even without saying "international peace conference". By its declaration, the United States is attempting to appear as if it has given big concessions to Arabs.

The paper says: "We completely realize that the form, the place, and the way negotiations will be carried, have never been an obstacle. The main obstacle lies in what the United States and Israel want the political map of the Middle East to look like till the end of this century." On this American-Israeli map, says the paper, there is a place called Palestine. And also there are no clear red lines showing the borders of Israel.

Maarive says that the governments of Peres and Reagan are facing the same problem. The two governments are unable to make a cut in their budgets. However, the Americans have found a solution for the problem through a cut in the expenditure. They have imposed a law which forces the government to gradually curb the deficit since Israel gets financial support from the US it will be practically affected by that law dubbed "Graham Rudman", named after the man who submitted it to the Congress. The new law forces the government to carry out a 4 per cent cut in the expenses. The paper says, even if this doesn't mean that Israel will return part of the financial aid it has received this year, the special financial aid which will be offered to Israel this year will decline.

Contracts & Contracts

• TENDER NO. 86/2. Supply of oxygen and Istaline for the Department of Mechanics. Tender documents are available for JD 5 at the Government Tenders Directorate. Closing date: 1 February 1986.

• TENDER NO. 86/2. Construction of schools 'The Sixth Educational Project'. Prequalified contractors are invited to submit their applications at the project directorate, Ministry of Education. This project is partially financed by the World Bank and it has been divided into 10 groups. The group of the above mentioned tender is the Seventh.

The schools will be built on the following areas: Al Zawahreh, Al Jabal Al Ablah, Al Matraq. Total area: 12,000 Sq. metres.

Tender documents are available for JD 250 at the Ministry of Public Works. Closing date: 9 March 1986.

• TENDER NO. 25/86. Prequalification of the local consultative engineering offices to supervise Health Centre projects. Tender documents are available for JD 25 at the government tenders directorate, Ministry of Public Works. Closing date: 16 February 1986.

• TENDER FOR gravelling and asphaltting Qibya-Marj el Zeltoun 4-metre wide road. Tender documents are available at the main office of Madaba governorate for JD 10. Closing date: 5 February 1986.

• TENDER NO. 2/86. Construction of a concrete building at Queen Aila International Airport. Tender documents are available for JD 50 with the secretary of the Tenders Committee in the Housing Bank Complex. Closing date: 27 February 1986.

• TENDER NO. A1/86. Supply of electric cables for the Ports Corporation. Tender documents are available for JD 20 with the secretary of the Tenders Committee at the Ports Corporation, Akaba. Closing date: 23 February 1986.

• TENDER NO. 12/68. Supply and installation of a boiler for the Printing Press at the Royal Scientific Society. Tender documents are available with the Secretary of the Tenders Committee. Closing date: 1 February 1986.

• TENDER NO. 3/86. Transportation of cement to the southern part of the Kingdom for the Jordan Cement Company. Tender documents are available for JD 80 at the company's office at Al-Fhais. Closing date: 5 February '86.

• ASPHALTING OF 4,000 sq. metres of roads at Jerash Municipality area. Tender documents are available for JD 20. Closing date: 3 February 86.

• ASPHALTING OF 2,800 sq. metres of roads at Kofr Alma area. Tender documents are available for JD 10. Closing date: 6 February 86.

JPMC contract for Finnish company

FINLAND'S Rauma-Repoli Parkano works has been awarded an approximately \$1,777,000 contract to update the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company's drying equipment at El-Hassa mines. It will supply five units to replace those originally installed by the UK's Newell Dunford in 1976. The original units have run at only 80 per cent capacity and the aim of the updating is to ensure that all run at 100 per cent capacity. The improvements will also bring economies in fuel consumption.

The contract, which was signed in September 1985 is Rauma-Repoli's first in Jordan though it has orders for railway equipment from Iraq and Egypt.

Finnish staff will supervise the installation of equipment by the JPMC's own staff and work is due for completion by early 1987.

Bids for the supply and operation of two electric draglines for Al-Hassa and Al Abyad mines are now due on 1 February and around eight

contractors, including those working at the mines, are expected to bid.

The company previously received bids from six suppliers in November 1985 and JPMC Managing Director Wassef Azar says if the new bids are not satisfactory, they will re-consider the original offers which came from Page Engineering Company, Bucyrus Erie Company, Marion Corporation and Harnischfeger P&H Corporation, all of the United States, Ransome and Rapier of the United Kingdom and an unnamed Soviet Company.

Ransome and Rapier supplied a JD 3.6 million, 9 million cubic meter a year dragline for Al Hassa in 1981.

A decision on the contract is expected by the end of February.

Mr Azar says talks are now underway between the JPMC and the Jordan Fertiliser Industries Company on major moves to integrate the activities of the two companies to improve efficiency and profitability.

(PAD)

Dollar sharply down, gold slightly up

LONDON (AP) — The US dollar fell to a seven-year-low against the Japanese Yen and was down against most other major currencies Wednesday in hectic European trading as dealers looked forward to a cut in US interest rates. Gold was mostly up.

Expectations of a US rate cut sprang from news that the Bank of Japan had cut its official discount rate, the rate at which it lends to commercial banks, from 5.0 per cent to 4.5 per cent, dealers in Europe said.

Lower interest rates make dollar-denominated investments less attractive and lower the dollar's price.

A dealer in Frankfurt said: "The market expects that the Fed will follow shortly with a discount rate cut of its own. People see the conditions for an interest rate cut in the US as being favourable. That's what's pressuring the dollar down near the opening."

In Tokyo, where trading ends before Europe's business day begins, the dollar plunged to a closing 194.30 Yen from Tuesday's 195.40. It was down 8.13 Yen in just five days and at its lowest since December 1978. Later, in London, it was quoted at 193.60 Yen.

Other dollar rates at mid-morning, compared with late Tuesday:

- 2.3833 West German Marks, down from 2.3990
- 2.0177 Swiss Francs, down from 2.0335
- 7.3200 French Francs, down from 7.3875
- 2.8927 Dutch Guilders, down from 2.7075
- 1,623.00 Italian Lire, down from 1,634.00
- 1.41575 Canadian Dollars, down from 1.41975

In London, the British Pound was little changed. It was quoted at 1.4080 compared with 1.4085 Tuesday. "Nothing much is happening with the pound at the moment," said the Frankfurt dealer. "Everyone is trading dollars and Yen."

Gold markets were reported extremely quiet. The metal opened in London at a bid price of \$354.25 a troy ounce, compared with late Tuesday's \$352.10. At mid-morning Wednesday, the city's five major bullion dealers fixed a recommended price of \$354.40.

In Zurich, the bid price was \$354.40 up from 353.50 late Tuesday.

Earlier, in Hong Kong, gold rose one cent to close at a bid 353.57.

In New York Tuesday, gold fell 0.50 to close at 353.40.

Silver was quoted in London Wednesday at a bid price of \$6.17 a troy ounce, up from Tuesday's 6.15.

EURODEPOSIT RATES

Currencies Period	US \$	DM	FF	SF	D Fls	Yen	Sterling Pound
1 M	7 15/16	4 1/2	10 7/8	4 3/16	5 11/16	6 9/16	12 3/4
2 M	7 15/16	4 9/16	12	4 3/16	5 11/16	6 1/2	13 1/16
3 M	7 15/16	4 9/16	12 5/8	4 3/16	5 11/16	6 7/16	13 1/16
6 M	8	4 9/16	12 5/8	4 3/16	5 11/16	6 3/16	13 1/16
9 M	8 1/16	4 5/8	12 1/8	4	5 3/4	6 3/16	12 15/16
12 M	8 3/16	4 11/16	11 5/8	4 1/4	5 3/4	6 1/8	12 13/16
2 Years	8 11/16	5	—	—	—	—	—
3 Years	8 7/8	5 1/2	—	—	—	—	—
4 Years	9 1/8	6	—	—	—	—	—
5 Years	9 1/4	6 1/4	—	—	—	—	—

Source: Finance & Credit Corporation

GOLD IN JORDAN

AMMAN (Star) — Prices on Wednesday 29 January, 1986 were as follows:

18 ct.. JD 3.200 per gramme
21 ct.. JD 3.700 per gramme
24 ct.. JD 4.400 per gramme
One kilogramme (9999) JD 4,250,000

Ounce.... JD 138.800
Gold Sterling... JD 30.700
(Central Bank)

Rashadi Pound... JD 27.000
(Seven grammes)

Source: Youself Abu Sara,
Jewellers, Amman.

EXCHANGE RATES

	buy	sell
US dollar	.385	.387
Sterling pound	.512	.520
German mark	.152	.154
French franc	.049	.050
Swiss franc	.178	.182
Dutch guilder	.133	.138
Italian lira (1000)	.215	.225
Swedish kroner	.047	.049
Saudi riyal	.099	.102
Kuwaiti dinar	1.270	1.275
UAE dirham	.089	.100
Egyptian pound	.200	.210
Syrian lira	.022	.024
Iraqi dinar	.340	.345
Omani riyal	.940	.950

Source: National Jordan Exchange Company

CENTRAL TENDER No. 2/86

Construction of the Compulsory Schools/ The Sixth Education Project.

The contractors who had been qualified previously for the Sixth Education Project and willing to participate in the following bid are requested to get bid documents from the project directorate, Ministry of Education from 25/1/1986 with the following conditions:

- The Sixth Education Project is partially financed by the International Bank for the Reconstruction and Development, and the compulsory schools were divided into ten groups and this tender buildings constitute the fifth group.
- Description of the announced tender:
No. 2/86 which include the construction of compulsory schools at the following sites:
Hay Zawahreh, Jabal Abyad, South Square (Mafraq) with an area of 12000 m2.
- Prices of the documents and tender bond as follows:

Tender No.	Price	Tender Bond
2/86	JD 250	JD 30,000

- Last date for receiving copy of tender is 1/3/1986.
- Last date for submission of offers is 12 O'clock 9/3/1986 at the Department of Government Tenders Directorate.

Chairman of the Central Committee
Director of the Government Tendering Directorate.

Economy news in brief

Opec to settle IFAD funding dispute

VIENNA (Opecna) — Opec countries will make every effort to ensure that agreement is reached on the second replenishment of the resource-starved International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Dr Seyyid Abdullal, Director General of the Opec fund for international development, said last week.

He told Opecna that Opec countries, which form one of the two major IFAD donor groups, would contribute "the maximum" to the agency, depending on their economic conditions.

Consultations on IFAD's second replenishment begin in Rome Saturday between Opec and OECD countries. Earlier efforts to evolve a mutually acceptable funding formula have remained unsuccessful.

Abdullal said Opec countries might be able to contribute about \$200 million to IFAD's second replenishment, which is expected to range between \$500 and \$600 million.

According to Abdullal, agreement can be reached if Opec countries consider Opec's contribution as "fair".

UN symposium on industrial pollution in Baghdad.

BAGHDAD (Opecna) — A symposium on the effects of industrial pollution in West Asia opens here on April.

Organized by the Baghdad-based UN Economic Commission for West Asia (ECWA), the meeting will examine reports on environmental protection and national programmes for pollution control.

The seminar is also to study hazards facing populated areas near industrial facilities and efforts by West Asian countries to combat pollution.

Venezuela lowers product prices

CARACAS (Opecna) — Venezuela has decided to lower prices of several oil products from 85 cents to \$1.30 a barrel effective January 11, it was announced here.

The cuts will involve products like residual fuel oils, distillate gasoline and home heating oil.

An official of the Ministry of Energy and Mines said last week that the price adjustment would only have a "moderate" effect on the country's economy.

Describing the cuts as a "normal operational aspect of the petroleum business", the official said the adjustment was a "regular and frequent movement".

Financial Market Report Prices up

By Mamdouh El Ghaly
Star Financial Market Analyst

THERE WAS appreciable rise in the share prices. The overall trading improved. Industrial companies dominated the trading. Speculations are however, that the recent decision to open the doors to the Arab investors and give them more incentives will have a positive impact on the market in the near future.

915,000 shares were handled at the market value of JD 1,300,000 divided among 1,350 contracts registering an increase of 33 per cent compared to last week.

The daily handling average amounted to JD 260,000 with a deviation of 31.8 per cent or 8.4 per cent of total around this average, thus indicating instability at the market.

The shares of 89 companies were handled from which 31 companies gained including:

- Al Ahlieh Financial Investment closing at JD 1.190 up from JD 1.050
- Cairo-Amman Bank closing at JD 23.000 up from JD 21.000
- National Shipping Lines closing at JD .760 up from JD .700
- Arab International Hotels closing at JD .410 up from JD .380

15 companies lost including:

- International Insurance closing at JD .810 down from JD .850
- General Metals closing at JD 1.550 down from 1.750
- Arab Develop. & Investment down from JD .800
- Irbid Governorate Electricity closing at JD .910 down from JD 1.000

23 companies had no change in their share values.

In the over-the-counter market, more than 385,000 shares were handled at a market value of JD 180,000.

Trading in the regular market was distributed among the sectors according to the following percentages:

Sectors	Market share	Last week's share
Banks	51.9%	38.1%
Industry	38.4%	55%
Services	7.7%	2.5%
Insurance	2%	3.4%

Prominent firms whose shares were traded by sector

Banks (out of 21 traded)	Share of sector	Share of market
1- Arab Bank	43.6%	22.6%
3- National Bank	8.5%	4.4%
Industrials (out of 29 traded)		
1- Jordan Petroleum Refinery	26.2%	10%
2- International Petrochemical Ind.	24.8%	9.5%
3- Arab Aluminium Industries	14.5%	5.8%
4- Jordan Dairy	8.1%	3.1%
5- Al Eddin Industries	7.4%	2%
Services (out of 10 traded)		
1- Jordan Hotels and Tourism	25.1%	1.9%
2- Jordan Electricity	24.9%	1.9%
Insurance (out of 9 traded)		
1- Jordan Insurance	32.4%	.7%

Weekly average

Dates	Banks	Insurance	Services	Industries	Average
21/1	+5%	+1%	+2%	+8%	+5%
22/1	+5%	-5%	-2%	-2%	+1%
25/1	+7%	-1.6%	-1%	-6%	-3%
26/1	+7%	-10%	+8%	+6%	+7%
27/1	+2%	+2%	+5%	+3%	+3%
Total	—	—	—	—	-1.3%

Amman Stock Exchange

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET SHARES MOVEMENT FROM 21-28 JANUARY, 1986.

NAME OF COMPANY	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE
BANKS			
JORDAN SECURITIES	.880	.700	+ .01
JORDAN FINANCE HOUSE	.880	.880	—
ISLAMIC INVESTMENT	1.000	1.000	.02
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	2.540	2.580	+ .02
JORDAN INVEST. & FINANCE	1.180	1.200	+ .01
ISLAMIC BANK	2.400	2.400	—
JORDAN-KUWAIT	2.480	2.480	—
HOUSING BANK	1.540	1.530	-.01
NATIONAL FINANCIAL INV.	1.080	1.180	+ .12
ARAB BANK	180.250	181.000	+ .004
JORDAN GULF BANK	1.490	1.500	+ .01
FINANCE AND CREDIT	.880	.880	—
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO	.880	.700	+ -.03
JORDAN BANK	18.000	18.000	—
ARAB MONETARY ESTAB.	1.360	1.340	-.01
PETRA BANK	2.880	2.880	—

INDUSTRY			
MACHINERY LEASING CO.	.730	.740	+ .13
JORDAN DAIRIES	1.220	1.220	—
ARAB ALUMINUM	.880	.880	—
ARAB MEDICINE MAN.	3.200	3.150	-.02
DAR AL DAWA	1.480	1.480	—
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	.740	.780	+ .03
JORDAN CIGARETTES & TOBACCO	11.780	12.000	+ .02
JORDAN REFINERIES	6.850	6.850	+ .001
JORDAN TANNING	1.700	1.800	+ .06
PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	.730	.770	+ .06
CERAMICS INDUSTRIES	1.050	1.050	—
JORDAN PIPES INDUSTRIES	1.110	1.180	+ .06
ALA DIN INDUSTRIES	.730	.750	+ .03
JORDAN LIME & BRICKS	.330	.310	-.06
ARAB DETERGENTS	3.850	3.850	—
JORDAN PHOSPHATES	2.480	2.480	-.01
JIMCO	.700	.650	-.03
NATIONAL STEEL	1.170	1.180	-.01
PAPER AND CARDBOARD	2.450	2.500	+ .02
INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	1.200	1.220	+ .02
CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	.980	.980	—
JORDAN TEXTILES	3.550	3.550	—
WOOL INDUSTRIES	.830	.880	+ .04

INSURANCE			
JERUSALEM INSURANCE	1.200	1.200	—
ARAB INSURANCE	.800	.780	-.03
REFCO INSURANCE	.910	.910	—
INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	.850	.810	-.28
JORDAN INSURANCE	11.210	11.350	+ .01
ARAB SEAS INSURANCE	2.000	2.000	—
ARAB UNION INSURANCE	.980	.980	—

HOUSING			
DARCO HOUSING	.750	.790	+ .05
AKARCO	.630	.600	-.03

GENERAL			
JORDAN ELECTRICITY CO.	1.480	1.480	-.01
ARAB INT. HOTELS	.380	.410	+ .08
PETRA MACHINE RENTALS	.780	.800	+ .03
NATIONAL MARITIME	.700	.780	+ .09
GARAGE OWNERS UNION	5.550	5.550	—

India forges ahead on the farm front



Farmers use tractors in Punjab; mechanization has reached remote villages.

FARMING IN India has come of age. From the pitiful condition of deficits and costly imports, the nation has been able to perfect an agricultural structure that has received worldwide acclaim.

Production of all major crops like rice, wheat, other cereals and pulses, and oilseeds registered an all round increase in the last five years. The foodgrains production in 1983-84 was 151.5 million tonnes and the provisional figures for 1984-85 indicate that the level may go up further. The growth rate of production of foodgrains during the five year period beginning 1980 was higher than in the earlier plan period. The rates of increase of production in wheat and rice were particularly significant at 4.46 per cent and 3.03 per cent respectively per annum.

Production of oilseeds and pulses which has been assigned a high priority in the new 20-point programme also increased at an annual growth rate of nearly 5 per cent. Significant increases were achieved in the other major crops also during the five-year period.

The increased production is all the more significant when we see that the last five years were marked by adverse weather conditions like truant monsoons and floods.

There was a marked change of emphasis in the technique of farm management during the last five years compared to the period of the green revolution and earlier. While before the green revolution, the stress was on increasing the area under cultivation, the emphasis during the green revolution period shifted to introduction of highly-yielding varieties.

During the last five years, the main contributing factors for increased production were an organised and efficient inputs management, expansion in the supply of inputs and services to farmers and a more efficient extension network.

Vigorous efforts were made by the government to strengthen the technological base which would ultimately result in higher production. To cite one example, the distribution of seed mini-kits which was about one lakh went up to nearly 50 lakh during the five-year period. Fertiliser consumption increased by over 50 per cent during this period.

An important component of government's support to agricultural

development is the pricing and marketing strategy. A comprehensive view of the whole gamut of production, marketing and costing of agricultural commodities is taken by the Agricultural Costs and Prices Commission. The cost of living, wage structure and the supply and demand situation are also considered. The basic objective is to provide the farmers a reasonable profit after meeting the cost of production.

Support prices of cereals have gone up by 34 to 40 per cent during the last five years. The prices of pulses have been raised by 55 to 67 per cent and that of oilseeds by 34 to 86 per cent. The Indian farmer thus is no longer forced to make distress sales nor is he at the mercy of middlemen and agents of exploitation.

Other efforts on the farm front that helped realise increased production are water conservation and management, plant protection, agro-service centres facility and advice on post-harvest technology. The introduction of training and visit system has helped in taking the programmes of technological improvement right to the farm.

Special schemes

A special production programme formulated for the eastern states, Assam, Bihar, Orissa, West Bengal, and Madhya Pradesh was taken up on a pilot basis during 1984-85 in 51 blocks. A scheme for assistance to small and marginal farmers launched in 1983-84 covered 5,000 blocks in the country and concentrated on increasing the production of oilseeds.

All-out efforts are being made to achieve a breakthrough in dryland farming to further increase agricultural production.

Farmers are given liberal credit facilities. The disbursement went up from Rs. 2918 crores to Rs. 5420 crores in the last five years.

The overall strategy for agricultural development adopted and implemented in the last five years has thus proved rich dividends. This will, therefore, be implemented more vigorously, especially in areas where poverty is more. It is expected that efficient resource management, increase in productivity, effective monitoring and re-orientation of investment policy in favour of the weaker sections will all help to close any gap that now exists in the area of agricultural production.

Pressures on Opec

By Rawhi A. Abeldoh

ABU DHABI — Pressures are increasing on Opec as winter passes and North Sea producers maintain a stubborn front on the production-prices quarrel.

All the signs are that the 13-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries will face an exceptionally difficult summer in the face of weakening prices.

A 3 February meeting of a five-man ministerial committee might indicate the direction of Opec thinking following its abandonment last month of a four-year-old policy of production controls to prop up prices.

Oil industry sources believe the decision of 9 December to seek a "fair share" of the shrinking world market (presumably more than the current 10 million barrels a day) was timed to allow for a winter of reflection before the higher demand of 2 million barrels a day comes to an end.

Opec's chief player, Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, has warned only the co-operation of non-Opec producers can prevent a price war, which he forecast would send prices tumbling "well below \$20 a barrel."

He noted that Opec can increase production to compensate for loss of revenue, while non-Opec states already are at maximum production.

Britain quickly put the ball back into Opec's court by stating it preferred to delay hoped-for tax cuts rather than surrender its belief in free market forces and join a dialogue for market distribution to stabilise prices.

Industry sources believe that whether Britain — seen as the toughest nut to crack — retreats or not, world oil prices are set for a steep decline that will be controlled only by the extent of self-restraint shown by producers inside and outside Opec.

Yamani has stressed the Geneva move was a policy decision, not just another signal aimed at seeking stability in the market; prices tumbled to a six-year low of \$21 a barrel when the decision was announced.

But there is a major question: When will Opec, specifically Saudi Arabia and other less-pressed producers such as Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates, intervene to prevent an all-out crash?

Such an eventuality is probable if Opec enters into head-on competition in a surplus-ridden market.

Another important factor is what Opec believes should be its fair share of the market, and this is expected to emerge from the 3 February Opec committee meeting, to be chaired by current pre-

OPEC'S AIM is to secure a "fair share" of the world oil market, but at what price? At present the two sides are quietly reflecting, But soon, winter will be ending ...

Opec production in the first nine months of 1985

Country	Production (000 bpd)	Quota (000bpd)
Saudi Arabia	2,950	4,353*
Iran	2,200	2,300
Iraq	1,350	1,200
United Arab Emirates	1,200	950
Kuwait	830	900*
Neutral Zone	370	
Qatar	300	280
Nigeria	1,400	1,300
Libya	1,000	990
Algeria	600	683
Gabon	170	137
Venezuela	1,800	1,550
Ecuador	280	183
Indonesia	1,200	1,189
Opec crude oil	15,450	16,000

* Including share of output from Neutral Zone

Source: Arab Petroleum Research Centre, Paris

sident Arturo Hernandez Grisanti of Venezuela.

Oil brings in 80 per cent of national revenue for Opec and Gulf producers, and with no alternative earner in sight, they believe this vital commodity must be kept as attractive as possible, in terms of both price and availability, for at least a generation to come.

While Opec's share of proven crude reserves has risen steadily from 438 billion barrels in 1980 to 608 billion barrels in 1984 (from 65.6 per cent to 68.3 per cent of world reserves), the group's market share declined from 28.9 million barrels per day to 16.3 million bpd during the same period.

At the same time, countries like Britain, Norway, Egypt and Oman have seen their output double, leaving Opec with the task of defending world prices by limiting production.

Official and independent estimates put demand for Opec's oil at a low of between 14.2 and 14.5 million bpd during the summer, compared with current production of 18 million bpd and demand of between 17.5 and 17.8 million bpd during the first quarter.

Faced with this gloomy report, Yamani reportedly has reminded

his colleagues Saudi Arabia is no longer the swing producer, and like the majority of the 13 members, is not ready to sacrifice a single barrel to be produced by a country outside Opec.

To continue the policy of production controls to defend official prices first adopted by Opec in March 1982 would have meant the ministers having to tackle the explosive issue of allocating individual quotas for 13 sovereign states at least twice a year — a small one for summer to be expanded by a certain percentage in winter.

That would have been an impossible mission, as most ministers admitted.

Reports by Opec-appointed committees and independent bodies have shown the 13 members have completely ignored official prices based on \$28 a barrel for Arabian light, while only Saudi Arabia has strictly observed its production quota of 4.35 million bpd.

Many believe Opec's decision was in fact an approval of the status quo rather than the declaration of a price war.

Rawhi A. Abeldoh is an editor at the UAE news agency, WAM.

Another gasfield discovered in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (Opecna) — A new gasfield discovered in Pakistan's Sindh province, will raise the country's daily production to 1.07 billion cu.ft., just 112 million cu.ft. short of overall demand.

Announcing the find at a news conference here, Dr Mohammed Asad Khan, minister of state for petroleum and mineral resources, said the field, located at Bukhari, 150 kilometres northeast of the port city of Karachi, was jointly discovered by Union Texas and the

Pakistan Oil and Gas Development Corporation.

Initial production from a test well was measured at 11.27 million cu.ft. a day, the minister said.

It is the third gasfield to be discovered in Sindh province in the last two years.

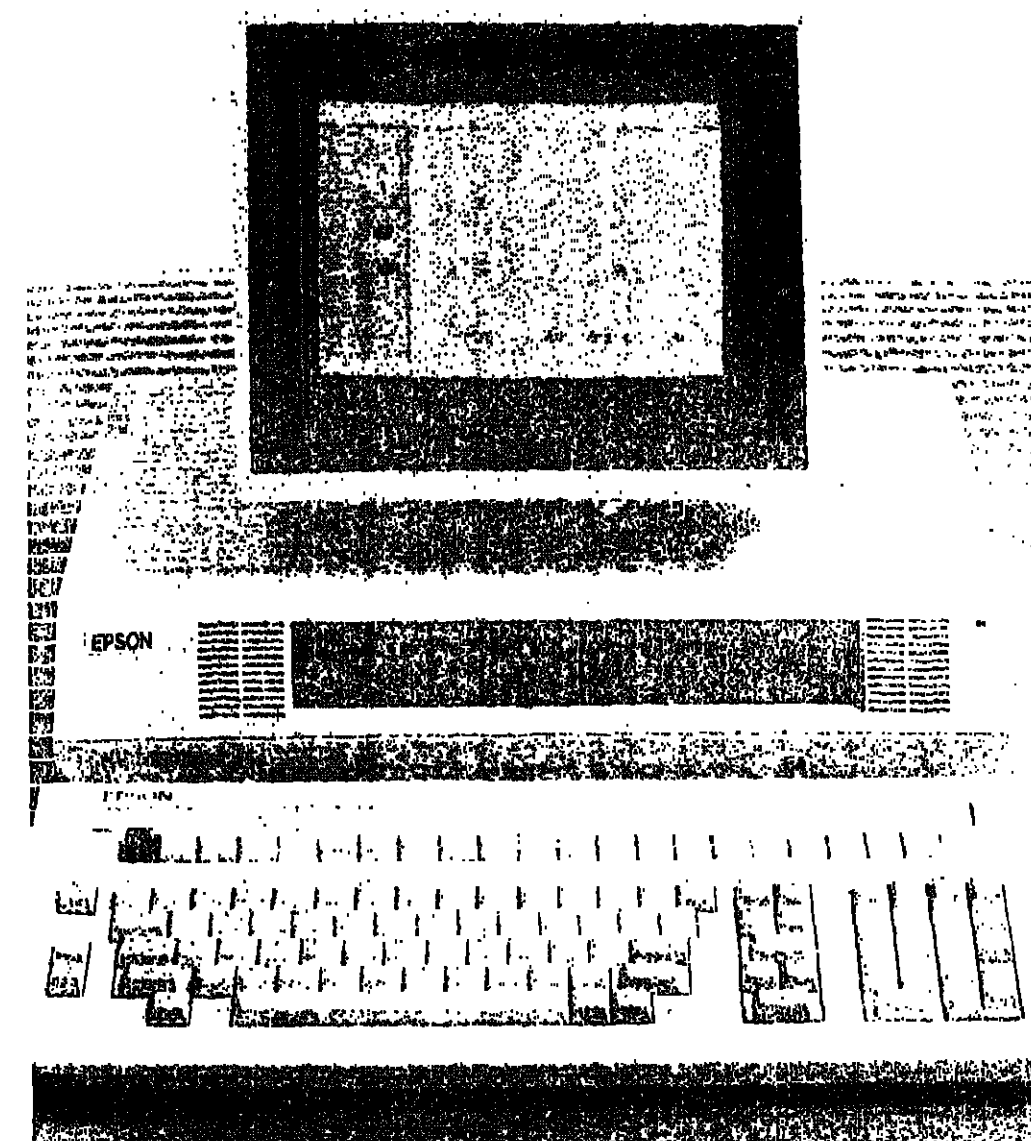
Venezuelan oil output 1.56 million b/d

CARACAS (Opecna) — Venezuela's oil production averaged 1.56 million b/d during 1985, according to figures released by the Ministry of Energy and Mines.

Advertise in
The Jerusalem Star
Call tel:
664153/4, 664131/2

The total represents a decline of 131,000 b/d — or 7.73 per cent — compared with the previous year.

PROFILE



Epson — QX — 16 PROFILE

- **CENTRAL PROCESSOR**— THE QX-16 is powered by 8088 operating at 5.3 MHz and by Z-80A operating at 4MHz. Its main memory is 256k (eight 256k-bit DRAMs) and is expandable to 512k bytes with 2784 EPROM for both 8088 and Z-80A mode. The direct memory access of QX-16 has 6 channels, its video memory is 128k bytes.
- **MONITOR**— The 12 inch (diagonal) monitor displays green letters with resolution 640x400 pixels. Its horizontal sync is 18.87KHz (TTL compatible). Its vertical sync is 45.36KHz (TTL compatible). Its dimensions is 310x310x280mm (WxDxH). Its weight is 8.5 kg.
- **KEYBOARD**— QWERTY keyboard with 10 multi-programmable function keys, an edit/cursor keypad and a numeric pad.
- **DISK DRIVES**— Two 5 1/4 " double density floppy disk drives with storage capacity (unformatted) 1000 k bytes for each disk, and storage capacity (formatted 720k bytes for each disk).
- **SOFTWARE**— The operating system in QX-16 is "TAXI". The QX-16 features a variety of computer languages including BASIC, COBOL, FORTRAN, PASCAL and others. It has own softwares such Wordstar, Accounting, Graphics and so on.

Systems Analysis

THIS WEEK we'll start with a very important subject which is "SYSTEM ANALYSIS."

This subject is related directly to computer science and is about using the computer in many areas as a new system instead of present manual system.

First we will concentrate on the first stage of analysis, illustrate their definitions, then discuss the feasibility of using technical methods (the computer).

The brief definition for "system analysis" is fact finding and critical examination of the facts, in other words, it involves collecting, organizing and evaluating the facts about a system and the environment in which it operates.

After the fact finding stage, we go through the approaches to system design which decides the general plan to be followed in design. Both the system analysis and system design approaches, study what the present system does, and what the proposed system should do, what schemes can be devised to achieve the desired objectives or objectives we aim to.

After the above two stages, we learned some facts about the present system and the work developed, so we can go through the system design which is the development of a plan or scheme for processing data, then the next stage is the implementation stage, it is the devising of procedures, selecting and installing of the equipment.

Also implementation includes training of people to use the new system, then putting the equipment and system into operation.

After this introduction, we can summarize what has been mentioned as follows: We have four phases in analysis: System analysis, Design approaches, Design and implementation.

They are not separate, they are closely related and each one affects the others, but they are handled in sequence.

Usually in analysing any system, it may be necessary to go through the four phases several times in order to obtain or build the most efficient system and this leads to use the most suitable equipment and techniques.

After proposing the new system, it can be also analysed to conclude how well it is likely to work if put into practice.

Next week we will discuss the same subject in detail

Maha Mahadeen

One of the most leading German products brings to you
TRIUMPH ADLER and
TA
Omran Computer Systems Co.

as sole agent brings you the complete ADLER computer line. You can see them all at our showrooms, Flras Circle, Sweet Home Building, Fifth Floor, or Call 640539

MSX 8088

For More Information Please Call 679616 / 679626

Lebanon's evasive peace

By Ya'coub Fahd

WHEN THE peace pact to end Lebanon's 11-year devastating war was signed in Damascus two weeks ago, there were hopes and misgivings, not only in Beirut and Damascus, but in several Arab and foreign capitals.

There was a cautious optimism that being signed by Lebanon's most powerful militia leaders and backed by Damascus, the accord could bring about an end to eleven years of destructive internal fighting and save what has been left of Lebanon. But many expressed public fears that the chances of success of the peace pact were not bright due to internal and external opposition and pressures to block implementation.

Few hours after the pact was signed by Amal movement leader Nabih Berri, Progressive Socialist Party chief Walid Junblatt and Christian militia leader Elie Hobeika, many Lebanese politicians feared Israel might try to sabotage the peace effort to keep Lebanon unstable and weaken Syria's strategic position.

In Christian East Beirut, a political source said there was some opposition to the pact among the Christian community, but the question was whether Israel would not interfere to prevent it from being activated.

But as it appeared later, Israel did not have to interfere openly to sabotage the accord as the biggest blow to it came from President Amin Gemayel and forces loyal to him within the Phalangist party.

The pact, the fruit of three months of intermittent talks hosted by Syrian Vice-President Abdel Halim Khaddam, trims the powers of the Christian-held presidency and gradually phases out the sectarian system favouring Lebanon's Christian minority.

President Gemayel, supported by other powerful leaders in the

Christian camp, did not seem to enjoy the idea of reducing the powers of the Christian presidency. Syria, in the meantime, relied on forces allied with Elie Hobeika to win support for the accord from among the Lebanese Christians. But it nevertheless launched a last bid to convince Mr Gemayel to give his backing to the accord.

A summit meeting between Syrian President Hafez Al-Assad and his Lebanese counterpart was held in Damascus on 9 January as fighting broke out in East Beirut between rival Christian militiamen over the peace accord. The summit talks failed to persuade Mr Gemayel to soften his attitude towards the peace pact.

The abortive summit talks were apparently the last effort by Syria to try to win Gemayel's backing by political means or even to make contacts with him. At the end of the discussions, the Syrian vice-president indicated in a statement to reporters that there might never be another meeting between the two presidents.

Gemayel returned to Beirut as fighting escalated between the forces of Hobeika and militiamen under the command of Samir Geagea who supported the Lebanese president. The fierce fighting in East Beirut and neighbouring Christian-held areas left hundreds of people killed and wounded and ended with Hobeika being sent to France in imposed exile after a humiliating defeat. Hopes that the peace pact would smoothly find its way to implementation were brutally dashed.

As a matter of fact, there have been serious concerns that Lebanon's civil war has flared up again on a more dangerous scale. Druze warlord Walid Junblatt said on 22 January that Lebanon's civil war had begun anew "on a more dangerous scale". He told reporters during a tour of his Shuf mountains stronghold that "Lebanon was passing through the most critical and dangerous stage ever".

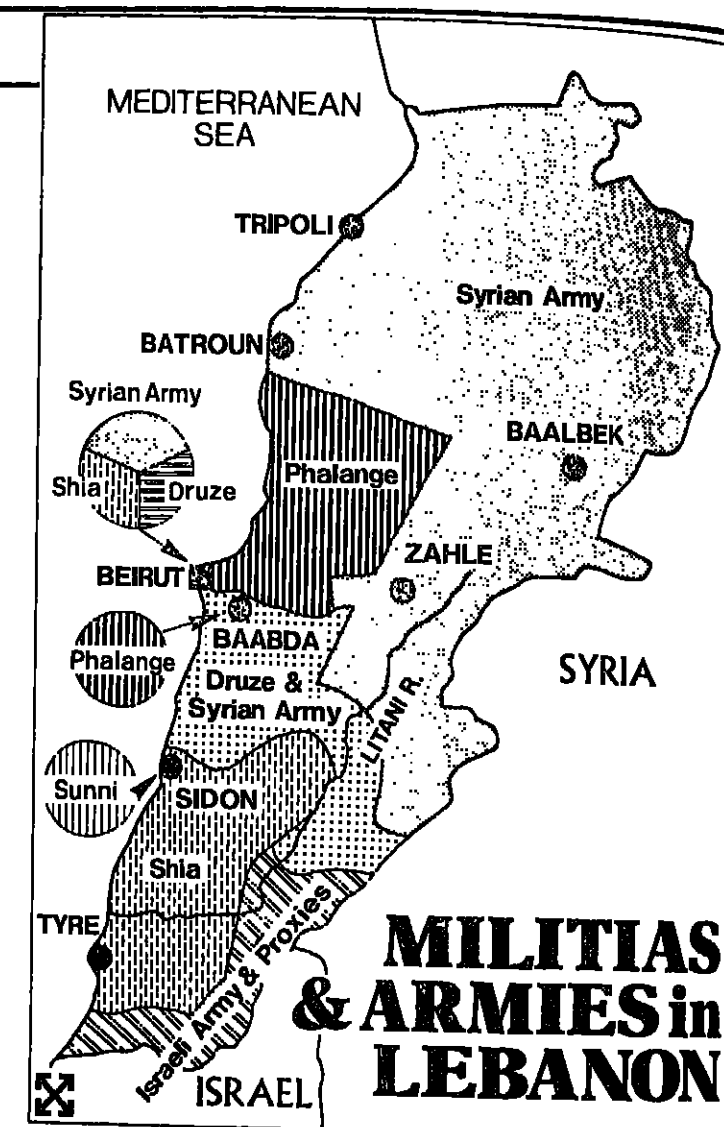
"We are back to square one and the war is starting all over again on a much more dangerous scale," Junblatt said. Since Gemayel's 15 January victory over his foes in the Christian camp, Syrian backed militiamen have been fortifying their positions on frontlines facing Christian north, northeast and East of Beirut, in preparation for what looked a final and decisive showdown with Gemayel and his supporters.

Syria has also been reported to have sent special forces paratroopers to the mountains area and unconfirmed reports said Syrian troops took direct part in the fighting near Bekfaya, the mountainous home village of President Gemayel.

The Syrian leadership seems determined this time to see an end to its dilemma in Lebanon which began about ten years ago when it sent its troops into that Arab country to try to stop the civil strife. Syria's involvement in Lebanon has cost it dearly at the expense of its efforts to direct all its economic and military potentials for the confrontation with Israel.

But Damascus has had to interfere because it could not afford to let Israel gain strongholds in a neighbouring Arab country through sectarian feuds. The Syrian involvement lasted too long while Israel's aggressiveness escalated and its expansionist schemes became more and more clear.

The signing of the peace agreement by leaders of Lebanon's three most powerful militias was thought to have set the stage for national reconciliation under which the long-sought political and constitutional reforms could be put into effect, thus ending complaints by some communities that they have been severely underprivileged. But the rejection of the accord by President Gemayel and the defeat of Syria's Christian ally, Elie Hobeika have reversed the situation to a point where a renewed civil war has become almost inevitable.



Syria's determination to force the implementation of the peace accord became clear after the return of Hobeika to Lebanon via Damascus and the formation of Lebanese alliance grouping its anti-Gemayel allies, including Hobeika and ex-Lebanese President Sulaiman Franjliyah. Leaders of the Syrian group vowed to topple Gemayel and put provisions of the Damascus accord into effect.

The question is whether Gemayel's absence will bring an end to Lebanon's sectarian strife. Some observers voice deep doubts that the overthrow of a president could bring about the long-cherished peace for the war-torn country whose religious and social structure has made it vulnerable to internal troubles and sudden eruption of sectarian upheavals. It is also doubtful that Israel will maintain silence over the turning of Lebanon into a pro-Syrian base, a development which Tel-Aviv would consider an enormous strategic setback.

MILITIAS & ARMIES in LEBANON

Lebanon's agonizing search for peace emanating from a sound national reconciliation may still take years before it is finally completed. Even after that, a country with so many sectarian rivalries and better memories and with the presence of Israel on its southern border, will be open to unpleasant eventualities.

AAADC into the "rainbow coalition" of presidential candidate Jesse Jackson. Zogby left to found his own Arab-American Institute.

The Arab lobby embraces a dozen smaller groups and many organizations of former ambassadors, academics and others, mostly not of Arab descent but with Middle East experience and devoted to achieving justice for the Palestinians. Many members are historians who see the whole concept of Israel as a passing, 20th century fad.

Both these and the exclusively Arab-American groups also lobby about the Arab image in general and the interests of Middle East nations.

The NAAA has access to the White House and to major corporations, and avoids issues that alienate middle-class support. Its best achievement has been to keep alive the case of Stephen Bryen, who was investigated by the FBI and the Department of Justice in 1979 after Michael Saba accidentally overheard him offering military secrets to Israeli defence ministry officials who were in Washington after Camp David.

With 15,000 paying members and many more supporters, the AAADC claims to be the largest Arab organisation here; but this is because the NAAA is an umbrella organisation consisting mostly of associations rather than individual members.

The AAADC has targeted easily-recognisable issues. It persuaded Jewish comedienne Goldie Hawn to have the anti-Arab script of a film cleaned up, and obliged the Webster dictionary to drop "street urchin" as one of the meanings of "Arab".

It became involved in prominent legal cases — notably, that of Palestinian student Ziad Abu Zain, who was extradited to Israel to face certain conviction for a bombing that took place when he was in a hospital 60 miles away. But the ex-senator and Zogby clashed when Zogby took the

THERE WILL be no more clean little desert wars in the Middle East. I mean the kind in which soldiers and tanks scoot around in the sand making dust, and then planes whizz down and make black spots of the tanks, and then, with black smoke still smudging the desert all down in tents at Kilometre 101 or wherever, and decide where the next cease-fire line will be.

Lebanon, and to some extent, the Iran-Iraq war, have shown us what future wars in the region will be like: modern weapons of terrible, swift destruction brought to bear on urban residential and industrial areas; collapsing apartment buildings with screaming children, clothes flaming, leaping or being thrown to the streets below.

Whole city blocks will be devastated, leaving landscapes reminiscent of earthquake disaster zones. More people died in Lebanon in 1982 than had perished in all previous Arab-Israeli wars combined, and the great majority of the dead were civilians. Then the Iran-Iraq war eclipsed even Beirut in terms of human suffering.

Ballistic missiles, modern fighter bombers with enormous range and firepower, and chemical-biological bombs/whatevers are already in the arsenals of both Arabs and Israelis. The latter, of course, have a temporary monopoly on nuclear weapons, but few Middle East military observers believe it will last for long. With Israel using her "military option" virtually every month on a different Arab country, and threatening its use when the planes are not actually flying, Arab leaders cannot ignore the possibility of nuclear blackmail.

Much more immediately, certain Arab governments, including Egypt, are actively seeking strategic weapons with which to effectively take the military option from Israel's hands. Short of nuclear bombs, there are weapons systems which, if convincingly assimilated and deployed by these governments, would make Israeli land invasions or deep-penetration bombing raids simply unthinkable. The concept is not a new one. It's called "deterrence," or more descriptively, "mutual assured destruction."

That the Arabs are seeking deterrent weapons in the face of Israel's overwhelming military superiority is a reflection of the deep disappointment and cynicism in the region about the current status of the "peace process." One reason is quite simply that the United States government supports the process, indeed, seems determined to make the process its own. All Arab leaders, even "moderate," "lame," once they are fully aware that it is the US which has given Israel its military superiority and supports its frequent use to achieve political objectives.

Just as importantly, the Arabs can detect, in George Wallace's words, "not one dime's worth of difference" between the US and Israeli positions on the peace process. By its actions, the US has abandoned the role of mediator in the Middle East conflict, and adopted the role of protagonist.

The NAAA has access to the White House and to major corporations, and avoids issues that alienate middle-class support. Its best achievement has been to keep alive the case of Stephen Bryen, who was investigated by the FBI and the Department of Justice in 1979 after Michael Saba accidentally overheard him offering military secrets to Israeli defence ministry officials who were in Washington after Camp David.

With 15,000 paying members and many more supporters, the AAADC claims to be the largest Arab organisation here; but this is because the NAAA is an umbrella organisation consisting mostly of associations rather than individual members.

The AAADC has targeted easily-recognisable issues. It persuaded Jewish comedienne Goldie Hawn to have the anti-Arab script of a film cleaned up, and obliged the Webster dictionary to drop "street urchin" as one of the meanings of "Arab".

Pax Hebraica

Has the US abdicated its role as peacemaker in the Middle East?

Amman highway. Alas, those are not our problems. We can only dream about them.

A Pax Hebraica

The Camp David accords involved two distinct but interrelated objectives. The first was embodied in the "Framework for Peace in the Middle East," signed in September of 1978, which was a statement of basic principles and goals which was a statement of basic principles and goals which it was hoped would draw other Arab nations (than Egypt) into a broad settlement of the fundamental issues — particularly the "Palestine problem" — that divide Arab and Jew in the region.

The second document was the Egyptian-Israeli Peace Treaty, a noble and seemingly successful effort to end the formal state of war that had existed for 30 years between the two largest powers in the Middle East.

Following the signing of the peace treaty in March of 1979, Israel embarked upon a pattern of aggressive behaviour that has served to define — for virtually all Arabs, including the most moderate Egyptians — the nature of the peace which can be expected from Israel and achieved through US mediation. Within weeks of the formal ceremonies which marked the signing, Israel embarked upon a determined campaign to settle the West Bank, limited in scope only by the amount of money which, in Israel's collapsing economy, US aid could permit to be devoted to this purpose. In June, the Israeli Knesset authorized the seizure of Arab-owned land so the "purchases" could proceed.

In September 1979, Israel jointly with South Africa tested a nuclear warhead in the South Atlantic Ocean. It matters not whether the evidence for this was "conclusive" for the Carter White House — Arab leaders and most Middle East observers know of Israel's nuclear weapons programme. And in the months following, the CIA, the Defence Intelligence Agency, and the US Naval Research Laboratory all released reports concluding that a test had in fact occurred.

In June of 1981, Israeli F-16s and F-15s bombed the Osirak nuclear reactor in Baghdad. A different mix of aircraft, including older F-4s, was used later that month to bomb Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) offices in apartment blocks in downtown Beirut, killing over 300 people, the vast majority of them civilians. In each instance, Israeli had stated reasons for the attacks, but she chose the time, the place and the military means to achieve her purposes.

Five months later, in December, 1981, Israel announced that she was annexing the Golan Heights, just days after signing a "security agreement" with the United States. And in June of 1982, she launched the full scale invasion of Lebanon, an undertaking which, according to Lebanese government and Red Cross figures, cost nearly 20,000 civilians lives before it was completed.

In October, 1985, the target for Israeli fighter bombers was Tunisia, a North African country which had been relatively quiescent in previous Arab-Israeli wars, but which had permitted the PLO to establish a headquarters in Tunis in 1982 after the latter had evacuated Beirut under UN and Red Cross auspices. Close to 100 per-

sons were killed in the raid, including over 60 Tunisian civilians.

A Pax Hebraica

Some will consider this a rather selective chronology of the major events in the Middle East since Camp David, as it does not include acts of Palestinian terrorism, Israel's relinquishment of the Sinai, etc. Perhaps so, but there are patterns in these events which are important to an understanding of the current stagnation of the peace process and commensurate decline in US influence in the region.

Taken individually, each of these events is a violation of the sovereignty of and/or an act of war against the "target" country. Each was also a slap in the face to Egypt, Israel's peace partner. Anwar Sadat, and then Hosni Mubarak, had to justify to Egypt's Arab neighbours its continued adherence to the Camp David accords after each instance of Israeli diplomatic and military aggression.

Taken together, however, these events constitute a claim that Israel is the administrative centre of

By Stephen Green

the Middle East, controlling the foreign policies of each and every country in the region.

● Israel, and Israel alone, would determine what kind of lives the Palestinians in the occupied territories would have, and where they would lead those lives;

● Israel, without Syria and without the rest of the international community would determine the placement of borders between the two countries;

● Israel, not Iraq, would decide what types of weapon systems the Iraqi Defence Ministry would obtain;

● Israel, not the Lebanese people, would determine the type of government which Lebanon would have;

● Israel would decide which or — organizations could have a presence, a representation in Tunis, in Beirut, and throughout the Middle East.

In all these events, Israel was maintaining that where a disagreement developed on matters between the government of Israel and the government of the sovereign state concerned, the dispute would be resolved by the Israeli Air Force. Arab states could be forgiven, in late 1985, for concluding that the peace being proposed through direct negotiations with a militarily predominant Israel would be a pax hebraica, in which they would become vassal states surrounding Jerusalem in the way the black bantustans surrounded and were subservient to — Pretoria, South Africa.

Nor does a mediation role for the United States make the prospect of "direct" negotiations with Israel any more attractive to the Arabs. The Jewish settlements in Arab villages in the occupied territories have been actually funded by the US, through a mechanism whereby Israel, unique among all countries receiving US foreign aid, receives a lump payment for budgetary support, without categories, projects, performance tar-

gets, time schedules or reporting requirements.

The Carter White House went to great, un-scientific lengths to hide the evidence it had of Israel's joint nuclear weapons test with South Africa. And the military actions against Lebanon, Iraq and Tunisia (conducted with US-made weapons) were detectable by US satellites and other electronic intelligence platforms. In the cases of Lebanon and Tunisia — countries with which the US had security relationships at the time — one would have thought that warnings of the pending Israeli attacks would have been possible and expected.

To Arab countries, the US is at the very least an unindicted co-conspirator in the litany of events since Camp David that have virtually destroyed the opportunity for a negotiated settlement of the conflict.

Arming for peace, etc., etc.

In the short term, time works for Israel. She no longer has to exchange territory for a peace treaty with the Arab states. She has the territory, and does not seem to need treaties to legitimize her retention of it. Military power will suffice.

Camp David has split Egypt off as a military counterweight to Israel, and resulted in Egypt's election from the Arab League. The Iran-Iraq war has further fractured the "Arab world." It is a situation in which Israel can and does use her military power aggressively, frequently, whenever and wherever she chooses to achieve either military or political objectives. The PLO is chased from country to country in the region, and new Jewish settlements in the occupied territories move inexorably toward a final solution of the "Palestine problem."

Not surprisingly, many Israeli and North American Jewish leaders are now saying that there is nothing to negotiate. One form this position takes is endless arguing about the permissible composition of the other side in any future peace negotiations, as if negotiations in which the Israelis choose the participants of both sides would have any meaning at all.

This is whistling in the graveyard. It is also dangerous. There is no status quo in the Middle East conflict. Arab leaders, including Hosni Mubarak and King Hussein, simply haven't the option of accepting anything like a status quo. If they wish to continue to prosper and lead, and live, Israel's aggressive actions since Camp David have spurred the growth of Muslim fundamentalist, radical socialist and other forms of opposition to what we in the West call "moderate" Arab regimes. The specter of Sadat's assassination at the parade ground outside Cairo in October of 1981 is never far from any Arab leader's mind.

Moreover, while it is not quite correct to say that the Arab world is now preparing for war, in the end, the different stages and from different sources, are seeking stages and from different sources, are seeking a weapon with which to counter Israel's off-used military option. Specifically, they are seeking accurately targetable ballistic missiles with conventional

high-explosive and possibly chemical-biological warheads. For Syria, this means travelling the road that Egypt travelled in the late 1960s and very early 1970s — a client-state relationship with the Soviets, including the posting of 7,000-plus advisors on Syrian soil, and SAM-6 and SS 21 missile launchers with (for the time being) "joint" control over their use. For Egypt, this means covert attempts to purchase in the world arms market short range ballistic missiles. I know this because senior Egyptian military leaders openly told me so during an extended visit to Cairo in the summer of 1984.

(Senior US military personnel in both Cairo and Washington have confirmed this. To date, Egypt has approached the French, the West Germans and the Chinese. They have not, so far as I can determine, yet approached the one country that would willingly give or sell on very soft terms the weapons they are seeking — the Soviet Union. To do so would be to risk current economic and military aid from the US.)

Egypt and Syria are not presently, so far as I know, seeking nuclear warheads for their missiles.

The governments concerned are fully aware of the possibility that this endeavour might result in yet another Israeli preemptive strike, or several, but they intend to make that as difficult as possible by proceeding in stages and in secret. In any event, they feel they have no choice. One very senior Egyptian military leader told me to drop my pencil, looked me in the eye, leaned forward and said: "I am now finally and firmly convinced that there will be no peace with Israel in this region, nor any meaningful negotiations toward that goal, until we (Arabs) have the capacity, at least, to destroy Israel."

The proposition that the Arab states in the 1950s, 60s and 70s were preparing to "drive Israel into the sea" was at best arguable. Classified analyses and planning papers of the CIA and the Defence Department, and the writings of such military historians as Edgar O'Ballance, Avi Shlaim and (more recently) Anthony Cordesman have disputed this proposition. But that may be a moot point in 1985.

The Proposition

If time in the short term is working for Israel, it is not in any sense working for a peaceful resolution of the Middle East conflict. Some would maintain that a pax hebraica serves US national security interests in the region. In this view, Israel is a strong, dominant "strategic asset" of the United States, holding the Soviet Union at bay militarily. Similar arguments were used to justify billions of dollars of military assistance for the Shah of Iran in the middle 1970s.

In the present instance, the danger is not the creation of pressures that bring about a revolution in Israel, but rather a series of political explosions, abrupt policy changes and revolutions across the map of the Middle East, culminating in a war far more destructive than those we have previously seen there, a war that will be fought in urban areas as well as the desert, in Israel as well as the Arab countries — a war, in other words, that would probably necessitate the direct intervention of the United States.

STEPHEN GREEN is a US-Middle East relations expert and author of the controversial book "Taking Sides". Currently he is working on the second part of his book.

Arab lobby — the mouse that roared

WASHINGTON — "The Arab lobby in Washington is the mouse that roared," said Paula Bannerman, legislative assistant to a Democratic congressman. "Anyone who would take on the Israeli lobby has got to have guts."

Said John Stein, who works for a Senate committee, "It has now here to go but up. You can't fall off the floor."

A less flattering description would be that the Arab lobby is virtually all Lebanese-American and that it's just like Lebanon: A number of different groups which unfortunately fight with each other. In contrast to American Jews, Arab Americans start off with three disadvantages: — There are fewer than 2 million of them, compared with 6 million Jews.

— They are mostly Christians whose parents emigrated from the eastern Mediterranean to live in a Christian society rather than a Muslim one.

— They are more American than most Jews, hence their preference for being called "Arab-Americans" not "American Arabs," in contrast to Jews who stress their religion over nationality by the expression "American Jews."

Whereas nearly 90 per cent of Jews belong to some religious ethnic association, Arab Americans were slow to join anything that separates them from other Americans.

Some of this is changing, with Arab-American organisations among the country's fastest-growing ethnic movements. The dehumanisation of Arabs in gen-

eral and Palestinians in particular in film, television and cartoons finally has begun to worry Arab-American families.

They are especially concerned about the effects of racism on their children. Ten years ago, if you asked a Lebanese-American, "Where are you from originally?" he or she was likely to say "France".

Until 1942 France had a mandate over Syria and Lebanon, and emigrants from there carried French passports. But the claim to be "French" on the basis of a passport reflected fear of negative reactions if the truth were told.

Ten years ago, when another writer and I interviewed then-Senator James Abourezk, he showed little interest in Middle East affairs, despite being the only Arab-American in the US Senate.

Shortly afterwards he began to change, and by the time he withdrew from Congress in 1978 he was being talked of as an ethnic leader. Today, having complained, other groups were not aggressive enough, he heads the most powerful of the Arab-American organisations.

The first Arab-American groups were the Ramallah clubs, gathered in a Ramallah Federation. Members were all immigrants from that largely Christian city near Jerusalem.

Its late mayor, Karim Khalaf, who was maimed by Israeli terrorists in 1980 and who died last year, used to say that 75 per cent of Ramallah's population was in America.

Both the Ramallah clubs and a more elitist group known as Arab-American University Graduates (AAUG) were more cons-

By Russell Warren Howe

scious of Middle East realities and the US involvement with Israel, than the Arab-American community as a whole.

Ramallah members had seen their relatives back home, come under Israeli occupation in 1967, while the well-educated AAUG, even though most of its members were Lebanese Christians, was intrinsically liberal.

The best-known Arab-American organisation was and is the National Association of Arab Americans (NAAA).

Under present director David Sadd, a former naval officer, the NAAA has raised considerably more funds, acquired a computer bank comparable with that of the affluent Jewish organizations, organises professional press conferences and issues well-

researched news releases. But the NAAA remains rife with splits.

To avoid the NAAA's house politics, Abourezk and another figure, James Zogby, founded the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, purposely reversing the nationality-tribe appellation, and modelling their name — on the well-established, rich and successful B'nai B'rith Anti-Discrimination Committee of American Jews.

With 15,000 paying members and many more supporters, the AAADC claims to be the largest Arab organisation here; but this is because the NAAA is an umbrella organisation consisting mostly of associations rather than individual members.

The AAADC has targeted easily-recognisable issues. It persuaded Jewish comedienne Goldie Hawn to have the anti-Arab script of a film cleaned up, and obliged the Webster dictionary to drop "street urchin" as one of the meanings of "Arab".

It became involved in prominent legal cases — notably, that of Palestinian student Ziad Abu Zain, who was extradited to Israel to face certain conviction for a bombing that took place when he was in a hospital 60 miles away.

But the ex-senator and Zogby clashed when Zogby took the

AAADC into the "rainbow coalition" of presidential candidate Jesse Jackson. Zogby left to found his own Arab-American Institute.

The Arab lobby embraces a dozen smaller groups and many organizations of former ambassadors, academics and others, mostly not of Arab descent but with Middle East experience and devoted to achieving justice for the Palestinians. Many members are historians who see the whole concept of Israel as a passing, 20th century fad.

Both these and the exclusively Arab-American groups also lobby about the Arab image in general and the interests of Middle East nations.

The NAAA has access to the White House and to major corporations, and avoids issues that alienate middle-class support. Its best achievement has been to keep alive the case of Stephen Bryen, who was investigated by the FBI and the Department of Justice in 1979 after Michael Saba accidentally overheard him offering military secrets to Israeli defence ministry officials who were in Washington after Camp David.

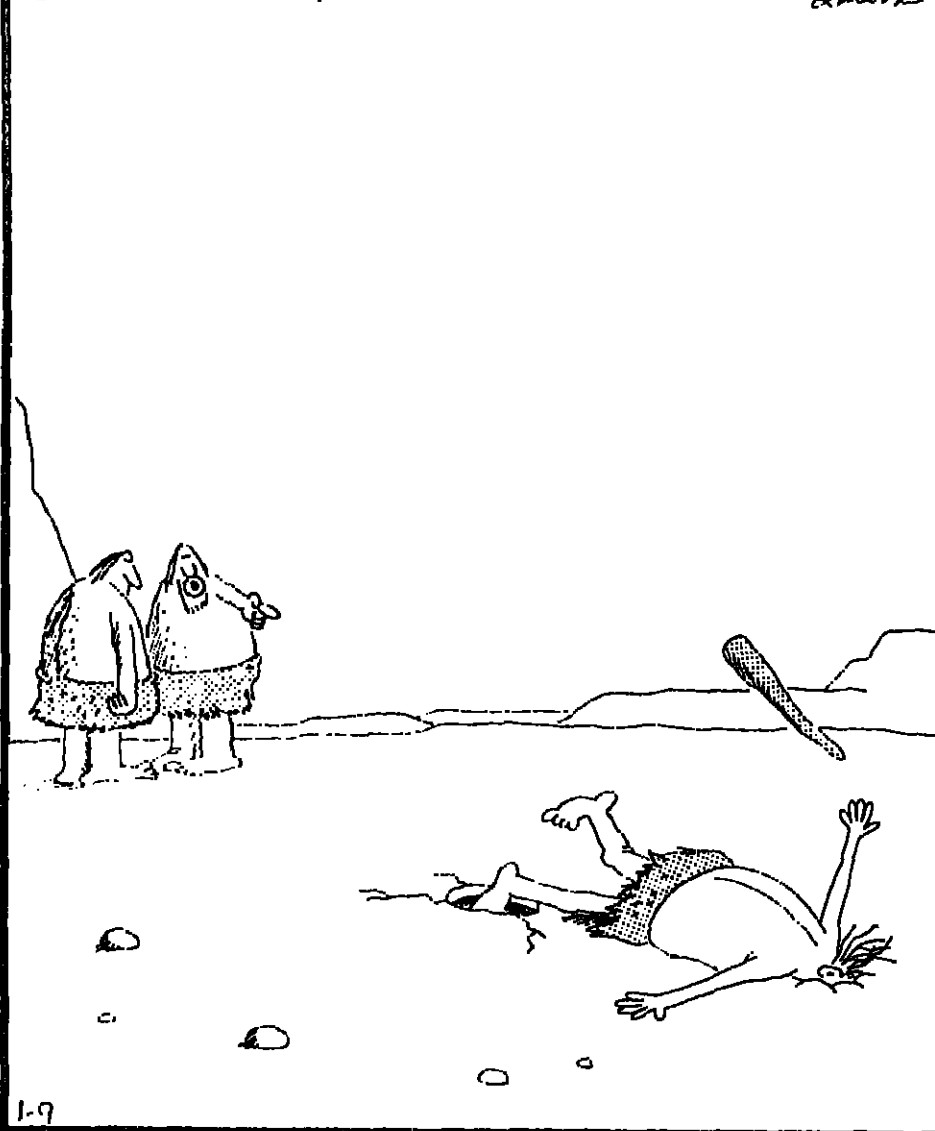
With 15,000 paying members and many more supporters, the AAADC claims to be the largest Arab organisation here; but this is because the NAAA is an umbrella organisation consisting mostly of associations rather than individual members.

The AAADC has targeted easily-recognisable issues. It persuaded Jewish comedienne Goldie Hawn to have the anti-Arab script of a film cleaned up, and obliged the Webster dictionary to drop "street urchin" as one of the meanings of "Arab".

It became involved in prominent legal cases — notably, that of Palestinian student Ziad Abu Zain, who was extradited to Israel to face certain conviction for a bombing that took place when he was in a hospital 60 miles away.

But the ex-senator and Zogby clashed when Zogby took the

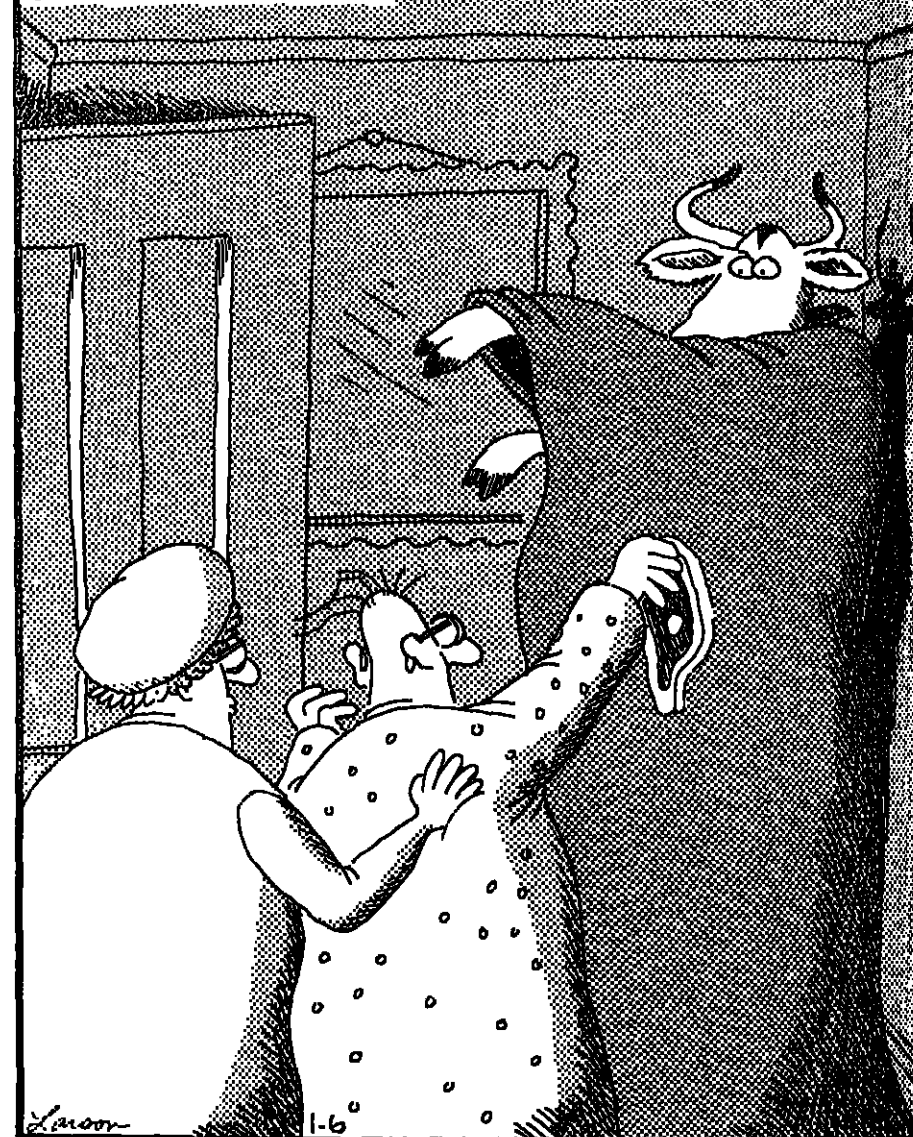
© 1986 Universal Press Syndicate



Still in its early stages, the Olduvai Pothole claims its first victim.

THE FAR SIDE

© 1986 Universal Press Syndicate



Thwarting the vampcow

By GARY LARSON



When migration routes encounter the window of vulnerability



"For heaven's sake, Lee. That spoiled rhino is going to either bellow or charge the door all night till we let him in."

By Keir Radnedge

LONDON — Joao Saldanha, Brazilian journalist and soccer coach, earned himself a place in history in 1970 when he said he was ready to drop the great Pelé from the national team for the World Cup finals that year in Mexico.

What Saldanha meant was that reputation counted for nothing. But the mere thought of going into battle without Pelé prompted the Brazilian confederation to fire Saldanha.

Saldanha has made many other down-to-earth comments about the sport and 1986 could see further signs that one at least will come true — that an African nation will win the World Cup before the end of the century.

Saldanha's confidence in the pace of progress was borne out last year when Nigeria won the first World Under-16 tournament in China, then finished third in the World Youth Cup for under-20s in the Soviet Union. For good measure, the top Nigerian club, Leventis, was runner-up in the African Cup-winners' Cup.

African football comes under close examination twice in the next six months. First come the African championship finals in Egypt in March, then Algeria and Morocco go to the World Cup finals in Mexico.

But the African Cup of Nations, as it is known officially, will draw the initial interest, with many of the world's top coaches there to spy on Algeria and Morocco.

The African Cup of Nations had a humble beginning nearly 30 years ago when just three countries took part in the inaugural tournament in Khartoum, Sudan. Egypt beat the host to become the first champion, with Ethiopia third.

Egypt was host two years later and again beat Sudan in the final. But there was to be no hat-trick — in the 1982 final Egypt lost 4-2 in extra time to Ethiopia.

That year Tunisia and Uganda swayed the numbers and a year later Ghana joined, winning the first of its four African Cup titles by defeating Sudan 4-0 in the final.

Ghana won again, 3-2 against the host after extra time, in Tunisia in 1985. But like the Egyptians a decade earlier, a hat-trick proved beyond the Ghanaians, who reached the final in Ethiopia in 1988 but lost to the then Congo-Kinshasa.

Ghana lost again in the final to Sudan in 1970, while in 1972 it was Congo which beat Mali — making its debut in the finals — 3-2 in Cameroon.

Egypt was host again in 1974, and the final in Cairo led to the tournament's first-ever replay. Zaïre beat Zambia at the second attempt and went on to the World Cup finals that year in West Germany as African champion.

Zaïre's coach was Blagoje Vidinic, a former Yugoslav international goalkeeper, who had taken Morocco to the World Cup finals in 1970.

But all Vidinic's big-time experience was of no use once his players left him on the touchline in the World Cup. Their nerves betrayed them — none more than skipper and star goalkeeper Kazadi. Zaïre lost 2-0 to Scotland, 3-0 to Brazil and a catastrophic 9-0 against Vidinic's compatriots from Yugoslavia.

Zaïre football has never quite recovered from the humiliation, but other nations have been only too ready to learn from the mistakes.

Morocco won the African Cup in 1976, Ghana on home ground in 1978 and Nigeria, also at home, in 1980.

Ghana beat Libya on penalties in Tripoli in 1982, then two years ago, continuing its success in the 1982 World Cup finals, Cameroon defeated Nigeria 3-1 in the Ivory Coast to win the cup for the first time.

No-one can say African Cup finals lack drama. Both 1984 semi-finals in the Ivory Coast had to be decided by penalty shoot-outs — Cameroon beat Algeria 5-4 after a 0-0 draw, and Nigeria defeated Egypt 6-7 after their match ended at 2-2.

For all its success at other levels last year, Nigeria will be missing from the African finals this time, having been beaten in the qualifying competition 0-0, 0-1 by Zambia.

The line-up for the finals, to be played in Cairo and Alexandria between March 3 and 21, is:

Group A (Cairo): Egypt (automatically qualified as host), Senegal, Mozambique, Ivory Coast.

Group B (Alexandria): Cameroon (automatically qualified as holder), Zambia, Algeria and Morocco.

The surprises are the absences of Libya and Tunisia. Libyan football has made great strides in the past year or two, and Tunisia was a World Cup finalist in 1978.

However, it had the bad luck to be matched against Libya in the

Egypt hosts Africa cup finals



EGYPT 86

AFRICAN SOCCER comes under close examination twice in the next six months. There's the World Cup for Algeria and Morocco, but first they join Egypt, Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Mozambique, Senegal and Zambia in the African Cup of Nations.

qualifying competition. Libya won 2-0, 1-0 but then surprisingly was knocked out on penalties by Mozambique.

It is uncertain whether Libya would have gone to the finals in

any case, since they are being staged in politically antagonistic Egypt. Here are the finalists:

Algeria: Africa's top nation, having qualified for the World Cup finals twice in a row. Top club JET

of Tizi-ouzou is one of the continent's best clubs, but the national team will miss star forward Lakhdar Bellqumli, who has a broken leg.

Cameroon: Thought to have declined in the last two years, but did well to beat Saudi Arabia for the Afro-Asian Cup. If officials can obtain the release of European-based stars such as goalkeeper Thomas Nkono and striker Roger Milla, the holder will not easily give up its crown.

Egypt: Regularly promises more than it produces in terms of results, but Zamalek and El Ahly are two of Africa's best clubs and the fervent support of a 100,000 crowd in the National Stadium will be an immense advantage.

Ivory Coast: Youssouf Fofana was arguably Africa's Player of the Year in 1985 and the Ivory Coast proved its potential by defeating Ghana in the qualifying rounds. Much depends on whether Fofana's new employer, French club Monaco, can be persuaded to release him for the finals.

Morocco: A World Cup rival of England, Poland and Portugal next June and with confidence boosted by the recent victory of the FAR team in the African Champions' Cup. Coach of both FAR and the national team is Brazilian José Farias.

Mozambique: The country which produced the great Eusebio in Portuguese colonial days. None of the present players can compare, and it was a surprise when they beat Libya to reach the finals.

Senegal: Based on a nucleus of players doing well in France, morale at a high level after the success of two club sides in reaching the quarter-finals of the continental championships.

Zambia: A match for anyone at top level in Africa. Beat Cameroon in the world cup qualifiers only to go out to Algeria, then recovered to qualify for the African Cup finals thanks to victory over Nigeria.

Keir Radnedge is Associate Editor of World Soccer magazine.



Aqaba

Region Authority

Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

DEVELOPMENT OF QABOOS TOURIST VILLAGE AQABA SOUTH COAST

The Aqaba Region Authority wishes to promote the above project in association with a Developer Contractor experienced in the field of marketing, planning, constructing, financing and managing such projects.

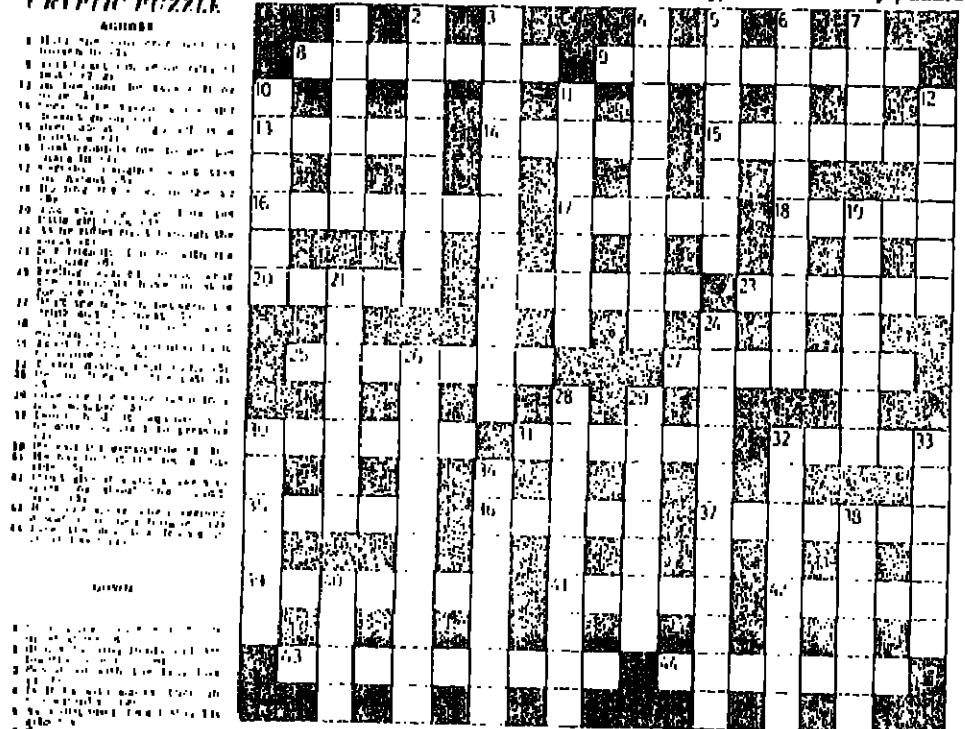
Interested organisations should apply for a copy of the Development Prospectus, enclosing anon-refundable deposit of JD 250.

The President
Aqaba Region Authority
Aqaba, P.O. Box 21
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Closing date for the registration of interest by Developer Contractors 10th March 1986.

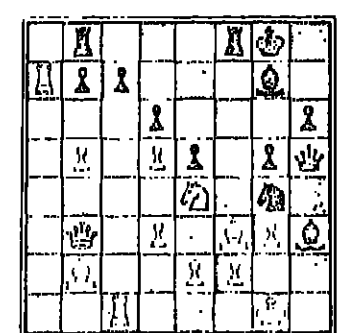
CRYPTIC PUZZLE

Use the same diagram for either the Cryptic or the Easy puzzle



1. The first round of the European Championship France and Belgium, keep rivals, both made their way to Six Spades, played by South. The first five bids by the North-South players at the two tables were the same; then the Belgians produced the old Black, while the French indulged in some bidding in the course of which North bid Five Hearts and East doubled.

CHESS

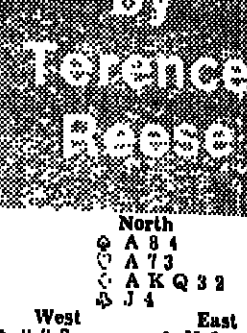


P. Peelen (Holland) v M. Frooman (City of London School). Loves Bank 1985. White must have thought he was well on top here. If Black stops the threatened ... Qd3 he is in trouble. But the 14-year-old player of Black (to move) had prepared a hidden resource. How should the game go?

Chess solution

1. ... R x B? 2. P x R. K1-K7! and White resigned. If 3. K-K1, B-K15 dis. ch. 4. K-K1, B x P and Q-KR3 mates, or 5. K-K1-Q2, R x P ch. 6. K-K1, Q x K1 and Q-K17 mates.

BRIDGE by Terence Reese



Dealer West N-S vulnerable. AT the risk of seeming to labour the point, I don't think I've mentioned it more than 20 times this year - I present here yet another deal where a defender made one of those show-stopping leads, to the great disadvantage of his own side.

Jerash revisited and brought back to life

By Sandy Rose
Special to The Star

Have you ever felt frustrated, visiting Jerash, but the feeling that you are unable to imagine what life was really like for those who lived there in its hey-day? If this vision of daily life has eluded you, you may find time spent at the forthcoming exhibition at the French Cultural Centre worthwhile.

The exhibition, which opens on 3 February and lasts until 10th is being held under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor. It focuses on the temple of Zeus, "holy place from early times" according to noted archaeologist Lancaster Harding, and a building of great beauty and importance before its destruction by earthquakes.

Through the study of this temple it is possible to follow Jerash through all its stages of occupation and to learn much about the lives of its inhabitants. Many inscriptions have been found during the excavations of the temple by French archaeologists, working in co-operation with the Department of Antiquities since 1982.

A model of the temple that has been made for the exhibition should help to fill in the gaps left in one's imagination following a visit to the temple today. So little is left that it is easy to pass it by without paying it much attention as one walks from the entrance to the forum.

One hundred and twenty objects from the excavations will also be on display, objects such as coins and pottery which will help to reconstruct the lives of the temple-users.

The exhibition will be backed up by a series of lectures and between 11 February five speakers will talk about different aspects of Jerash. Two of these lectures will be in English, the first by Dr Adnan Hadidi outlining conservation po-

lity in Jerash and the last by Anthony Ostrasz, describing the restoration of the Hippodrome. Jacques Seigne will talk about the temple of Zeus, and as the leading archaeologist in the excavations, he will provide insight into the discoveries made there. Two more lectures in French, the first by Dr

Zayadine on the religions of Jerash, and the second on the origins of Jerash will conclude the feast of information on this, one of the most completely preserved Roman towns in the Middle East.

See calendar for details of lecture times and dates.

lity in Jerash and the last by Anthony Ostrasz, describing the restoration of the Hippodrome. Jacques Seigne will talk about the temple of Zeus, and as the leading archaeologist in the excavations, he will provide insight into the discoveries made there. Two more lectures in French, the first by Dr

See calendar for details of lecture times and dates.

30 JANUARY 1986

Actress brings magic and mystery

By Vanessa Batrouni

FRENCH ACTRESS Pierrette Dupoyet is bringing her acclaimed one woman show "Chutt" to Amman next week and will be performing at the French Cultural Centre on February 4.

"Chutt" was created especially for the Theatre Festival at Avignon in 1985 after the actress' previous success in "Laisse Tomber La Neige" at the Festival in 1984. Both shows were created by the actress herself following eight years of working One Woman Shows from scripts.

Before embarking on the arduous, but artistically satisfying career of acting in and devising "One Woman Shows," Pierrette Dupoyet was well versed in the classical and commercial theatre having trained for four years at the Centre for Dramatic Art in Lyons and having worked under the famous theatre director Madeleine Renaud. She also directed a theatre troupe in Lyons, took leading roles for several years with the International Company of Beguin and worked with cinema greats like Federico Fellini (in Casanova) and Claude Lelouch before going it

alone in 1974. In "Chutt" the actress seeks to recapture the magic and mystery of words and the era of stories when storytellers played an important role in the community.

In a bedouin tent with her audience at her feet, sitting cross legged, Pierrette, half sorceress, enchantress and storyteller takes her audience on a magical mystery tour into fantasy.

Acting the characters and miming the actions of the characters in the stories, she relates six separate tales of a shepherd who plants words, of a blind Greek who washes the stones of the sea, of a curious young girl cloistered in a strange cave, of a boy lost in a desert in a mixture of fantasy and nightmare, of tragedy and humour, of reality and dream, linked only by the image of water as sea, as rain and as tears.

"Chutt" is an exploration of the power of the word and image, their relationship to the elements, points to a deeper philosophy that is wrapped up in the mixed illogical images of dreams.

For those who like the enchantment of tales, poetry, folklore and the "stuff that dreams are made of" or simply would like to acquaint themselves with good thea-



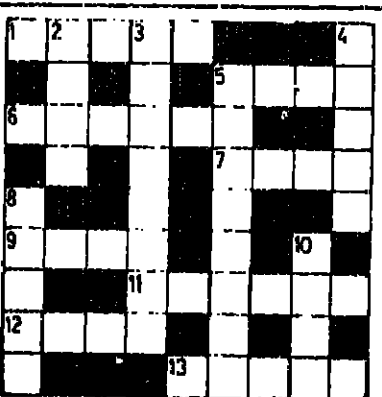
Pierrette Dupoyet in 'Chutt'

tre and the art of the one woman show then this is for you. The performance begins at the French Cultural Centre at 8 pm.

JUNIOR X-WORD

CLUES ACROSS. — 1. Wild stroke at a ball. 5. Warm and comfortable. 6. Postal packet. 7. In addition. 9. Cab. 11. Overseas. 12. Burn black. 13. Surplus to requirements.

CLUES DOWN. — 2. Lacking strength. 3. Odd. 4. Power-line support. 5. Nonsense. 8. Becomes jammed. 10. Couple.



SOLUTION

ACROSS. — 1. Swipe. 5. Cozy. 6. Parcel. 7. Also. 9. Taxi. 11. Abroad. 12. Char. 13. Spare.

DOWN. — 2. Weak. 3. Peculiar. 4. Pylon. 5. Claptrap. 8. Stick. 10. Pair.

TARGET The EXPRESS Word Game



SOLUTION

Using four letters from the grid: FRYING, FRYING, FRYING, FRYING, FRYING, FRYING, FRYING, FRYING, FRYING, FRYING.

Subscribe to the and enjoy a full year of good reading.

P.O. Box 591 Telephone 664153 (6-line exchange); 664131-2 Telex 21392 MEDIA JO

ARIES — March 21st to April 20th

There are some more positive factors where your emotional life is concerned. You feel more generous and more kindly disposed towards others. A conversation with a friend will prove to be most rewarding. You will be able to make good progress with a family matter. You should avoid too much violent exertion. You will get on better with Scorpio and Sagittarius than with Capricorn.

TAURUS — April 21st to May 20th

You will have some good ideas and will know how to put them into practice. You must try to avoid spending too much time on secondary matters. You should be particularly careful on Wednesday and Thursday. You will be tempted to spend more than you can readily afford. You will have to be a little more patient. You will get on better with Sagittarius and Capricorn than with Scorpio and Aquarius.

GEMINI — May 21st to June 20th

A personal matter which has been hanging fire will now come to a climax. Avoid discussions that seem to lead nowhere. The influences are mixed, but you will have a good opportunity to clear up an ambiguity. Your intuitive powers are acute but may well lead you astray. Avoid making too many concessions and beware of committing yourself to heavy expenditure. Avoid being aggressive. You will get on better with Scorpio and Capricorn than with Sagittarius.

CANCER — June 21st to July 21st

You should spend more time ensuring that all is well between yourself and your partner. Make sure you have considered all the alternatives before coming to a decision. You should try to avoid overruling yourself. There

Intimate Starcasts By FRANCESCO WALDNER

There is no time to waste, but you should not act in haste. Do all you can to reduce stress and tension. You will get on better with Scorpio and Sagittarius than with Capricorn.

LEO — July 22nd to August 21st

The situation is not quite as you would like it to be. You must try to avoid becoming emotional. Do not allow your likes and dislikes to cloud your judgement. A friend may try to involve you in a problem that does not really concern you. You should not turn your back on innovation but you must avoid change only for change's sake. Make sure you do not set yourself impossible targets.

VIRGO — August 22nd to September 21st

You will have to cope with some petty obstacles and others may prove to be rather difficult to deal with. Try not to be quite so selfish or possessive. You may easily get into an argument, and if you do you should not become too involved. A little more patience on the family front will stand you in good stead. You will be able to rectify a mistake made either by you or by someone close to you. You will get on better with Scorpio and Capricorn than with Sagittarius.

LIBRA — September 22nd to October 21st

You should avoid trying to do by force what you have been unable to do by more gentle means. You will tend to be a little apprehensive, but the situation is not as bad as it

CAPRICORN — December 21st to January 19th

The solution to a problem may well lie in a different direction than that in which you are looking. You will have to be a little more careful about your expenditure; remember that credit is expensive. Try not to lose your temper and avoid being intolerant. Make sure you do not ignore your limitations, but do not allow yourself to become diffident. You should try to be kind and solicitous towards an older person. Other people's views should be taken fully into account before you act.

AQUARIUS — January 20th to February 18th

The situation will tend to be rather tense, and you should do all you can to diminish it. You will not feel at your best and to compensate you will have to make extra efforts. There will be some important developments which will permit you to increase your sphere of activities. You should try to be a little more friendly. You will have some unforgettable moments. You will tend to dismiss the difficulties but you should not do so.

PISCES — February 19th to March 20th

You will be able to maintain your freedom of choice only if you do not allow yourself to be taken by surprise. You will be able to make the most of your talents and opportunities this week. In fact it will be possible for you to put your professional activities on a more firm foundation. You must keep an open mind in respect of changes and modifications. You should try to be a little more indulgent and understanding towards your friends. Be more careful with small outlays — they mount up. You will get on better with Scorpio and Capricorn than with Sagittarius.

A working woman keeps up the pace

By Najwa Kefay

• Mona Nejim Nabulsi, a young dynamic Jordanian woman could help to change the image of women in Jordan and the Arab world through her elegance, self-confidence and personality but much more, through her business drive. Mrs Nabulsi is now managing director of the Consulting Corporation for Informatics, a company which carries out feasibility studies, for any institute or corporation wanting to acquire computers.



Mona Nabulsi

she now had time to read more literature in Arabic and English.

"Concerning my son, I'd like to see him in the military service or maybe a scientist," she says.

Mona, who is a holder of a Master's Degree in Electronic Engineering from Houston University, Texas, United States, returned to Jordan only two years ago, after having lived in the United States for six years, with her husband. While in America she worked for computer companies Texas Instruments and Litten Resources, as senior branch manager, while taking evening courses in preparation for her M.Sc.

Back in Jordan, Mona combines her work with membership of three professional groups, in the Computer Committee which was established according to a directive from the Prime Minister to study the situation of computers in Jordan, the Engineering Association and the Federation of Women Organizations in Jordan.

Mona's home life is equally filled with activity. She manages to care for her 4 1/2 year old son, Ahmed and, she says "I have one hour of exercise every day, of the week," says Mona.

"My day starts at 6:00 am, when I dedicate two whole hours to play with my son and attend to him. At 7:30 I'm always in my office and I stay there until 1:00 when I go home for lunch with my family. Then its back to the office at 3:00, until 5:00 and most days I have meetings to attend of one or other of my committees.

Husband, Samir, who is an Architect, doesn't complain about her way of life, as he has an equally busy schedule. He also became accustomed to life lived at a fast pace during a 22 year stay in America.

According to Mona the major problem that faces a business woman here in our part of the world, is the lack of facilities, which means women often have to worry about trivial chores instead of concentrating on the more important ones.

"But, 'she carries on,' I'm a very organized person, the fact which makes life much easier for me.

When does Mona Nabulsi intend to retire to a quieter type of life? "I hope I can work till the last day of my life, and I pray to God for this. Although I'd like to take a short rest after five or six years, when I've built a second line of management for this company. This would reduce my activities a little and enable me to spend more time with my son. But right now I feel this is my prime time for working, and I'm lucky to have an understanding, and encouraging husband who makes things easy for me.

Mona Nabulsi dreams for Jordan to be for prosperity and a better understanding and appreciation for modern technology. She believes Jordan is doing quite well in the field of computers at present and that the importance of the field has been acknowledged by the formation of the computer committee.

On the personal level, Mona would have loved to have studied English Literature, and to get a degree in management, she wishes

• Good news for cocktail drinkers — a group of professionals whose business is to please your taste, including representatives of the Intercontinental Hotels Corporation, the Jordan Intercontinental and the Amra Forum, are about to launch a cocktail competition among their barman, to see who can prepare the best offering.

Their Cocktailsymposium promises fun for all but especially for the lucky winner who will receive the engraved silver Bombay Challenge cup along with a respectable cash prize.

The winner will also have the privilege of representing Jordan at the International final in London next May.

Amman's big event will take place on Saturday 1 February in the Intercontinental's Royal Suite under the eye of a 5 member judging panel. The event will be hosted by hotel general manager Antonius Mueller Gerbrand assisted by Chairman of the organizing committee Nazih Dabbas and Assistant Food and Beverage Manager Aziz Tamim.

Unfortunately the event is not open to the public but The Star will provide a report on activities and the prize winners' names in next week's issue.

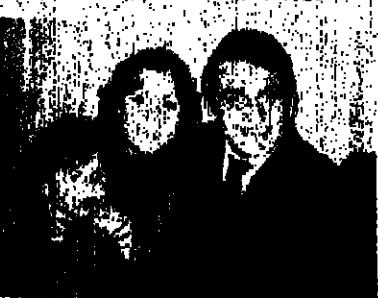
The Jordanian pavilion, which was designed by the Alla public relations section, contained a number of posters showing the desert, historical sites and handicrafts.

Alla's folk troupe also participated in the exhibition and took part in the daily folkloric parade along with representatives of the European, African and other Arab pavilions.



The Jordanian pavilion at Utrecht

• Mrs Nora Shammas, wife of the Lebanese Counselor Hussein Shammas, celebrated her return to Amman from holidays in Lebanon with a morning tea for a number of Amman's Lebanese ladies.



Nora Shammas with her husband Hussein and daughter

Another new 'returnee' who touched down in Amman just last Tuesday, is Josephine Zamaniri. Josephine, with sons Sari and Leith has been enjoying a five week stay in her home country Australia. She was particularly impressed with the current Art Nouveau fashion that is changing the style of Australia's homes. Josephine couldn't quite manage to bring any furniture samples back with her but she is hoping that some of the glossiness of Australian life will stay with her now she is back home with husband Eddie.

• Mosaics will be under expert discussion this week when Father Michele Piccirillo, director of the Studium Biblicum Franciscanum in Jerusalem, presents a lecture on 'Recent Archaeological works along the Roman Cardo of Madaba'.



The lecture will be given in the conference hall of the Faculty of Engineering and Technology at the university of Jordan at 12.00 am.

Fr. Piccirillo can certainly lay claim to being an authority on his subject as, since 1978, he has carried out excavation and restoration work at the Memorial of

Moses on Mount Nebo and at Madaba. He is now working at the site of Mithnaga-Mekawar, in co-operation with the Jordanian Department of Antiquities and is also preparing a corpus of the mosaics of Jordan.

Fr. Piccirillo's home base, the Studium Biblicum Franciscanum was conceived by the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land in 1901 and came into being officially in 1927 as an academic institution of the Franciscan Order. In 1980 it was designated as the biblical section of the Athenaeum Antonianum of Rome, and in 1982 became the parallel branch of its Theological Faculty. As a research centre, the Studium Biblicum is qualified especially in the rediscovery and exploration of biblical sites, as well as in the study of the local early Christian Church in the area. Its numerous excavations (Bethany, Bethlehem, Gethsemane, Cana, Jerusalem, Magdala, Nazareth, Nebo etc.) and its publications (Liber Annuus, Collectio Minor, Anecdota) attest to the vitality and professional competency of the Studium Biblicum.

Friends of Archaeology

FRIENDS ARE advised to keep their bags packed this month as the outings schedule is a pretty busy one.

The next trip to look forward to is actually the last of the January crop and is a Friday 31 January visit to Pella in the Jordan Valley. Tim Potts of Sydney University is directing excavations at the site and will give a run down of this season's activities. Following this the trip continues to the springs at Wadi Himmeh 20 kilometres away, where Phil Edwards of Sydney University is excavating two Mesolithic sites. Departure is from the Department of Antiquities Registration centre at the usual time of 8.30 am.

You have to be on deck at the early hour of 7.30 am to catch the Friday 7 February trip planned for Bab Edh-Dhra and Numaira, two important early Bronze age sites near the south eastern end of the Dead Sea. Dr David McCreery will lead the tour and the picnic will be in the scenic Wadi Numaira. This is a long trip so don't forget to fill up with petrol before you start.

On Saturday, note the day, 22 February, Dr Genevieve Dolfus and Dr Zaidan Kafafi will lead a tour of their excavations at Tell Abu Hammad, an important Chalcolithic site in the Northern Jordan Valley. And remember, the day is changed but the departure hour is the usual 8.30 am.

Keen travellers will just about have time to draw breath after the Saturday trip and it will be time for the Crete and Athens excursion which is planned for Monday 24 February to Sunday 2 March.

The itinerary for the trip is being planned by Dr Yannis Sakellariak of the University of Athens and includes three days in Crete and three in Athens. The cost of the trip is JD 145 per person and this includes all expenses. Reservations must be confirmed with Mrs Anne Furtick (866315) or Mrs Theresa Wegelius (842467) by 10 February.

And something to look forward to is an overnight trip to the Decapoliis cities of Syria planned for Thursday-Friday 20-21 March. You can make reservations with Mrs Marilyn Bentley (889089) or Mrs Anne Furtick by no later than 20 February. Don't forget Syrian visas are the travellers responsibility and can take weeks to arrange.

Exhibition

Jerash will be in the spotlight at the French Centre this month with the opening of an exhibition on the work of the French Archaeological team on Monday 3 February. Those wishing to attend the opening must be at the French Centre by no later than 6.00 pm. If you cannot manage the opening, you have until 18 February to catch the exhibition.

The exhibition will be backed up by a series of lectures to include Adnan Hadidi on 'Restoration and Tourism in Jerash' and Frank Braemer on the 'Origins of Jerash' on Wednesday 6 February, starting at 8.00 pm. On Saturday 8 February, also at 8.00 pm Fawzi Zayadine will speak on 'Religion in Jerash' and Jacques Seigne will tackle the topic of 'The Sanctuary of Zeus in Jerash'.

The final lecture will be on Tuesday 11 February when Tony Qatareh will speak on the 'Restoration of the Hippodrome'.

Those planning to join the Bab Edh-Dhra trip should take note that on Tuesday 4 February at 8.30 pm, tour leader David McCreery will present a talk on 'Recent Discoveries at Bab Edh-Dhra and Numaira'. This one is at the Department of Antiquities Registration Centre.

Your TV guide

Channel 6 programmes from 1 - 7 February



THE CABBAGE PATCH, Sunday at 8:30

Ancient Egypt brought alive

Saturday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sunday
8:30 MIND YOUR LANGUAGE, "Time and Tide": Mr Brown decides to take the foreign students on a boat trip down the River Thames to improve their knowledge of historical England. But when Henryshaw, who has agreed to steer the boat, has a lot of "yo-ho-ho, and a bottle of rum", and Farrukh starts getting sea-sick before the boat pulls away from the jetty, Mr Brown finds himself in deep water! 10:20 THE SUN ALSO RISES, parts 1 and 2	8:30 STARRING ... THE ACTORS: This episode with Sissy Spacek and clips from her best known movies as "Bend Sin", "Carrie", "Coal Miner's Daughter", "Raggedy Man" and "The River". 9:10 TENDER IS THE NIGHT: In Rome, Dick Diver is faced with many problems. Rosemary follows him to Rome as a location for shooting a film. His friend Abe dies and Dick gets in trouble with the police and is taken to jail. 10:20 DALLAS, "Tangled Web".	8:30 THE CABBAGE PATCH, "The Birthday Party": If there is one thing Grandmother Lillian wants to keep secret, it is her age. Which is why Janet's birthday party for her is threatened. Lillian takes exception to the figure 70 on a card she receives from Ruth, though she doesn't know who has sent it because she throws it away immediately. But it does mean that someone who will be at the party knows her age, and she can't face that. Everyone does know, of course, but Janet warns the children that they mustn't say a word about it. 9:10 END OF EMPIRE, "Palestine". 10:20 MAGNUM	8:30 THREE'S COMPANY, "Doctor in the House": Jack's grand father comes to visit him thinking that Jack is a doctor and not a Chef. 9:10 ANCIENT LIVES: Daily life in Ancient Egypt is brought vividly alive by writer and Egyptologist John Romer in Central's four-part series ANCIENT LIVES. On a visit to Deir El Medina, a village lying in the mysterious Valley of the Kings on the West Bank of the Nile, Romer shows how remarkably preserved historical records reveal fascinating details of the public and private lives of the people who built the Pharaohs tombs over 3,000 years ago.	10:20 FALCON CREST, "The Wages of Sin".	8:30 MR BELVEDERE 9:10 THE FAR PAVILIONS 10:20 HUNTER, "The Shooter"	8:30 THE CABBAGE PATCH, "The Birthday Party": If there is one thing Grandmother Lillian wants to keep secret, it is her age. Which is why Janet's birthday party for her is threatened. Lillian takes exception to the figure 70 on a card she receives from Ruth, though she doesn't know who has sent it because she throws it away immediately. But it does mean that someone who will be at the party knows her age, and she can't face that. Everyone does know, of course, but Janet warns the children that they mustn't say a word about it. 9:10 END OF EMPIRE, "Palestine". 10:20 MAGNUM

Cinema Corner

By Reem Yasin

A Franco-Egyptian Reconciliation Over BONAPARTE

THE EMBASSIES of France and Egypt are co-operating in paying tribute to the great internationally recognised Egyptian director, Youssef Chahine, by presenting his latest film, "Adieu Bonaparte". The film is the first ever Franco-Egyptian production, a colossal production that cost almost three million dollars and over two years of extensive shooting.

The film that was shown and gained acclaim in many parts of the world, was Egypt's first official entry at the Cannes International Film Festival. After receiving extremely favourable reviews at Cannes in May 1985, "Adieu Bonaparte" was shown by invitation in the first Tokyo International Film Festival. In the United States, where Chahine himself made guest appearances, the film was enthusiastically received by critics and public alike.

"Adieu Bonaparte" is set during the time of the French expedition to Egypt (1798-1801). It is not, however, a historical documentation of the military invasion of the country by Napoleon, but a humanistic and tolerant view of the inevitable interaction of two different civilizations as they come face to face.

On the French side, the film does not mainly concern itself with Napoleon as a military leader and conqueror, but concentrates more on his enlightened general Cafarelli (impressively conveyed by Michel Piccoli). The Egyptian side is mainly represented by Ali (brilliantly played by Moheeb Mohieddin) and his brothers, members of a family that has been devastated by the invasion.

All and Cafarelli are the pivot of the film and it is their friendly relationship that bears the director's message. Through their mutual love and respect they are able to bridge the gap between two warring and different nations.

Love, tolerance and respect are the theme of Youssef Chahine's film, representing his philosophy. As he bids farewell to Bonaparte (the military conqueror), Chahine is vehemently refusing to accept violence, aggression and violation — hence the deliberate belittling of Napoleon's role on the screen.

Towering over him and infinitely more impressive is the character of Cafarelli who succeeds (at least partially) in bridging the gap of time, place and culture by establishing a true friendship with Ali, a relationship that was satisfying as well as beneficial for both parties.

As they stand at the foot of the great pyramids in one of the most memorable scenes of the film, Napoleon himself confesses to his general; "It is only your love, Cafarelli, that will be able to consecrate the silence of these sacred places."

N.B "Adieu Bonaparte" is subtitled in English and is scheduled for screening at the RCC tonight (Thursday 30/1) at 8:00 pm.

Top Records

In US	In Britain
1. That's What Friends are For-Dionne + Friends 2. Burning Hear-Survivor 3. I'm your Man-Wham 4. Talk To me-Stevie Nicks 5. Say You, Say Me-Lionel Richie 6. My Hometown-Bruce Springsteen 7. When The Going Gets Tough-Billy Ocean 8. Spies Like US-Paul McCartney 9. Walk Of Life-Dire Straits 10. Go Home-Stevie Wonder	1. The Sun Always Shines On TV-A-HA 2. Walk Of Life-Dire Straits 3. West end Girls-Pet Shop Boys 4. Broken Wings-Mr Mister 5. Hit That Perfect Beat-Bronski Beat 6. You Little Thief-Feargal Sharkey 7. Saturday Love-Cherrelle and Alexander O'Neal 8. Who's Zoomin' Who?-Aretha Franklin 9. It's Alright (Baby's Coming Back)-Eurythmics 10. Alice, I Want You Just For Me - Full Force